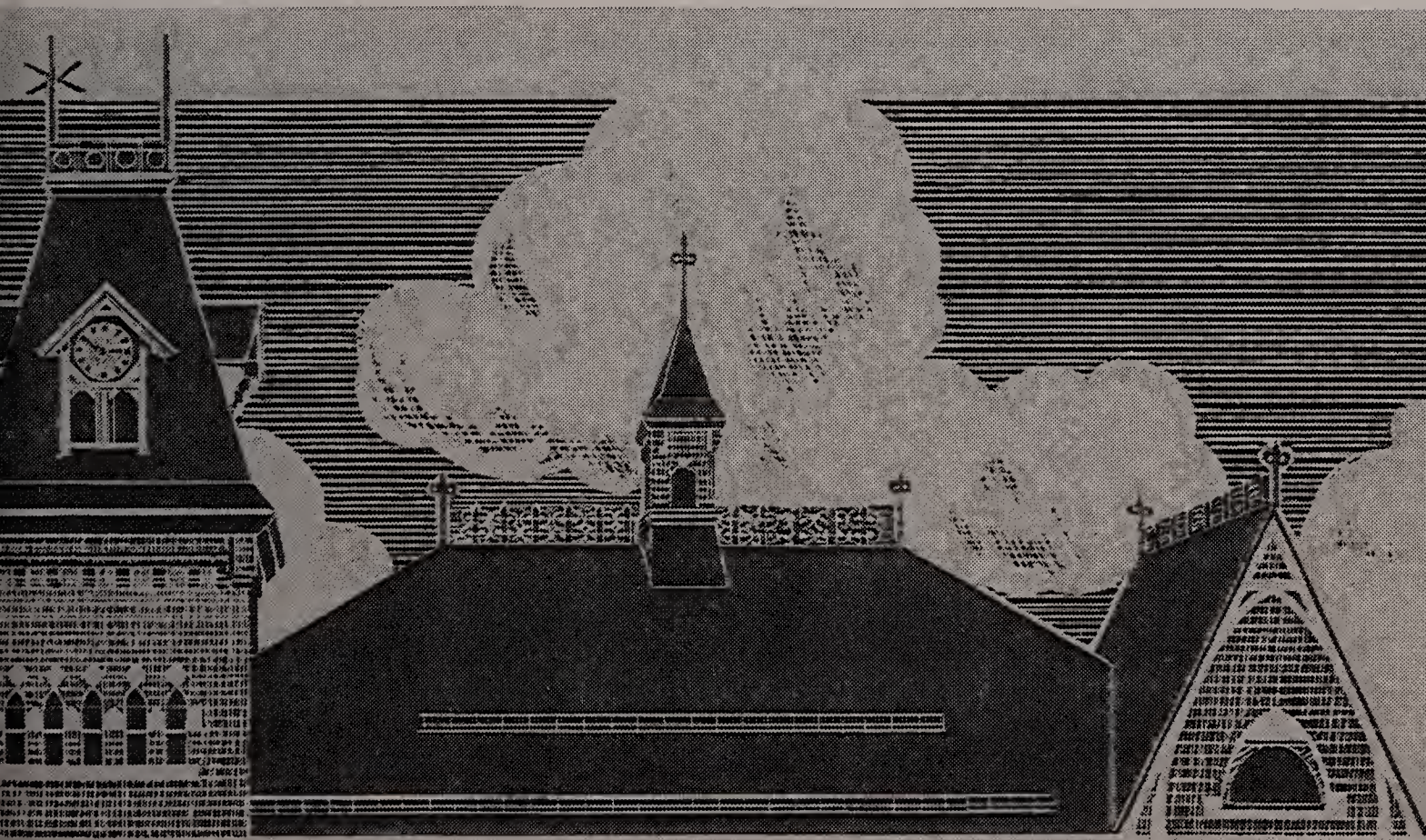


TOWN
of
MERRIMAC
MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL
REPORT

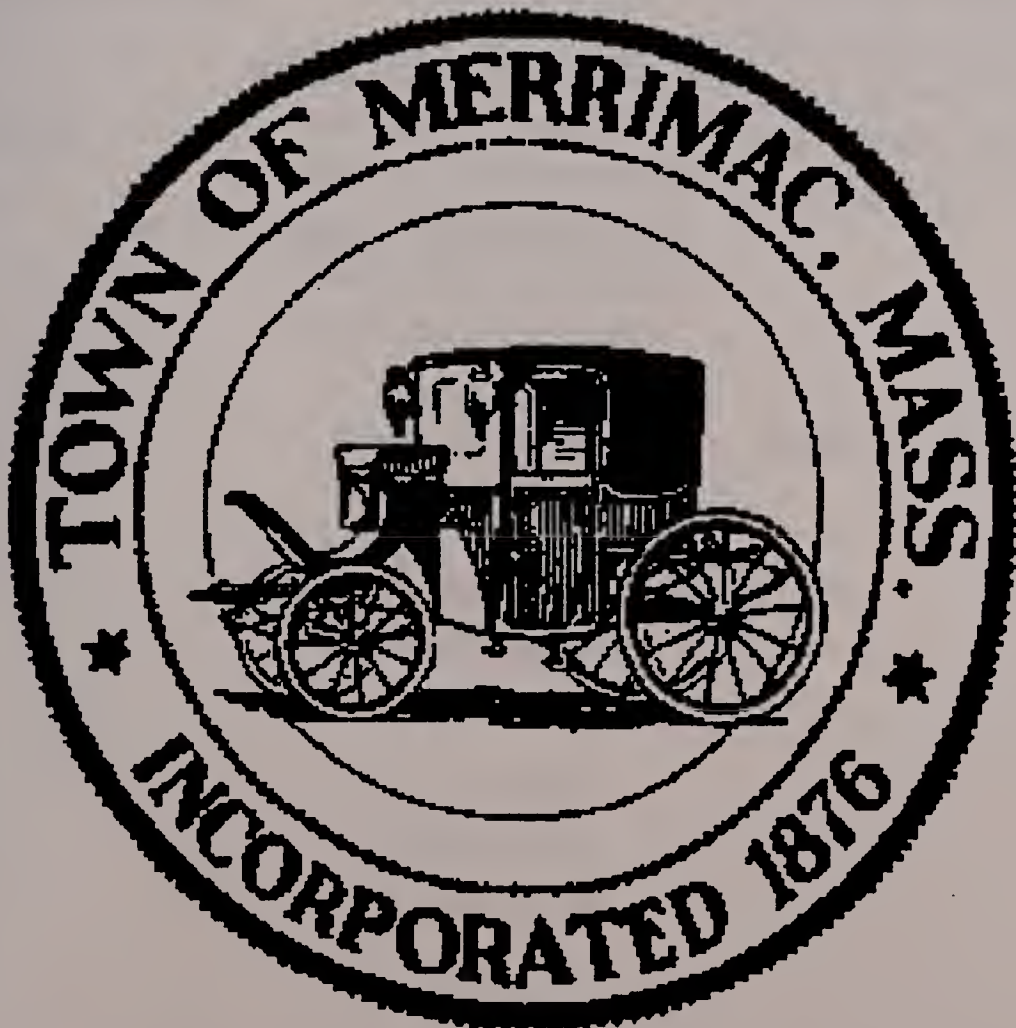


1997

*Front Cover Artwork by
Joyce Zarins
Merrimac Cultural Council*

ANNUAL REPORT
Of the
OFFICERS, BOARDS
&
COMMITTEES
Of the
TOWN of MERRIMAC
MASSACHUSETTS

For the year ending December 31, 1997



In
Memoriam

to those

Who Have Held

Public Office

In the

Town of Merrimac

Walter S. Perkins

Finance Committee

Conservation Committee

Town Forest Committee

Open Space Committee

Recycling Committee

James H. Christie

Finance Committee

DIRECTORY OF ELECTED OFFICERS

Moderator

One Year

Robert Bender

Board of Selectmen

Three Years

Sandra H. Venner

Term Expires 2000

Jeffrey W. Hoyt

Term Expires 1999

Walter W. Steeves, Chairman

Term Expires 1998

Board of Assessors

Three Years

Edward R. Davis, Chairman

Term Expires 2000

George Mutti

Term Expires 1999

Martha A. Schena

Term Expires 1998

Planning Board

Five Years

Arthur O'Keefe, Chairman

Term Expires 2002

Robert Sinibaldi

Term Expires 2001

Arthur Evans

Term Expires 2000

Earl Baumgartner

Term Expires 1999

Ann Gardner

Term Expires 1998

Patricia True, Secretary

Constables

Arthur Evans

Brian W. Peavey

James M. Seymour

Tree Warden

Wayne Armstrong

Town Clerk

Three Years

Patricia True

Board of Health

Three Years

Laura Weaver	Term Expires 2000
Paula Hamel, Chairperson	Term Expires 1998
John Meuse	Term Expires 1998

School Committee

Three Years

Lynda Williams	Term Expires 1999
Anthony Repucci	Term Expires 1998
Laurel Sweeney	Term Expires 1998
Todd Treado	Term Expires 1999

Trustees of Public Library

Three Years

Susan M. Coburn, Co-Chair	Term Expires 2000
J. Rodger Morphet	Term Expires 2000
Nanette Becker	Term Expires 1999
Yvonne Cosgrove	Term Expires 1999
Jeffrey W. Hoyt, Co-Chair	Term Expires 1998
Linda A. Seymour	Term Expires 1998

Playground Commission

Three Years

Michael Stevens, Chairman	Term Expires 2001
Thomas Graziano	Term Expires 2001
David Riley	Term Expires 2000
James A. Hume	Term Expires 1999
Wayne Bickford	Term Expires 1998

Municipal Light Commissioners

Three Years

David J. Vance, Chairman	Term Expires 2000
Norman Denault	Term Expires 1999
Norman Sande	Term Expires 1998

Municipal Water Commissioners

Three Years

David J. Vance, Chairman	Term Expires 2000
Norman Denault	Term Expires 1999
Norman Sande	Term Expires 1998

Cemetery Trustees

Three Years

James A. Hume	Term Expires 2000
Larry Fisher	Term Expires 1999
Richard Fournier	Term Expires 1998

Sewer Commissioners

Three Years

Richard J. Powers	Term Expires 2000
Richard Herbert	Term Expires 1999
Arthur Evans, Chairman	Term Expires 1998

Merrimac Housing Authority

Five Years

Richard W. Emery	Term Expires 2002
Dorothy A. Cloyd	Term Expires 2000
Geraldine Shepherd (Gov. Appointed)	Term Expires 1999
Stephen P. True	Term Expires 1998
C. Shirley Jones	Term Expires 1998
Arthur O'Keefe (resigned August 1997)	

DIRECTORY OF APPOINTED OFFICERS

Finance Committee

John Cryan, Chairman
Janet Bruno
Raymond Gingras
Joseph McKenna

Maryellen Meegan
Maureen Moran
William Koch

Board of Appeals

Patrick Melican, Chairman
Arthur Amirault
Gordon Broz

Richard Eastman
Mark Townsend, Alt.
Robert Dandurant

Conservation Commission

Louis Nucci, Chairman
Paul Geoghegan
Jon Pearson
Allan Pollock

Robert Prokop
Robert Topitzer
Arthur Yarranton

Building Inspector Todd Michel

Rent Control Board

George Bedard, Chairman

Sandra Venner

David Gudjonsson

Fire Department

Brian W. Peavey, Chief

Ralph Spencer, Deputy Chief

Norman Armstrong, Deputy Chief

Plumbing & Gas Inspector Gaetano Caruso

Wiring Inspector Roy Keiser

Highway Department Gordon Rines, Superintendent

Board of Registrars

Linda Seymour, Chairperson

Jean Steeves

Dorothy Whiting

Town Counsel Ashod N. Amirian

Finance Director
William J. Gustus

Town Accountant
Debra A. McGrane

Town Treasurer
Rodger Morphett

Tax Collector
Geraldine Gozycki

Selectmen's Secretary
Barbara J. Arbour

Animal Control Officer & Inspector of Animals
Madeline Cirinna

Cultural Council

Nanette Becker, Chairperson
Nancy House, Secretary
Joyce Zarins, Treasurer
Judy Flynn

Kathie Jones
Ronald Jones
Iris Minc
Hanna Trautman

Veteran's Agent
Zillah Buzzell

Sealer of Weights & Measures
Roger Cyr

Historical Commission

Evelyn Calnan
Walter D. Calnan, Emeritus
Kenneth G. Fowle
Jeffrey W. Hoyt

John McCarron
Charlotte McCarron
John Pease
Sandy Pease

Recycling Committee

Michael Roberts, Chairman
Patricia Dillon
Bruce Evans

Mary Lyons
Debra McGrane
Lynda Williams

Town Forest Committee

George Wallace

Marie Sutherland

Robert Topitzer

Council on Aging

Elizabeth Pittman, Chairperson
Elli Adams
Mary Cheney
Colleen Fiorello
Herb Gynan
Irene Kimbrell

Dorothy Lumsden
Inez Lund
Roy Minihan
Elizabeth Pittman
Terri Walden
James Murphy

Trustees of Kimball Park

Barbara Arbour

Yvonne Bednarz

Joyce Spinelli

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief

James A. Flynn

Patrolmen

Arthur Evans
David J. Vance
John K. Meuse

Stephen M. Ringuette
Eric M. Shears

Dispatchers

Linda A. Seymour, Clerk Dispatcher
Thomas Sayers

Bonnie Bishop
Benjamin Denault

Reserve Officers

Edward A. Cardone, Jr.
Scott Maker
Michael McGrath
Mark E. Sayers
Brian Thiboult
Royster H. Johnson IV
William Matatall
David C. Rich

James M. Seymour
Edward Syvinski
Anthony McDonough
Scott M. Bucuzzo
Daniel Ross
James Mikson

Clayton K. Turner, Sr., *Life Honorary Police Officer*

Alan Hassig, *Honorary Police Officer*

Richard G. Noone, *Honorary Police Officer*

Part Time Dispatchers

Andrea D'Urso
Richard Herbert

Brian W. Peavey, Jr.
Mark Sayers

Matrons

Rachel Adams
Bonnie Bishop
Linda Seymour

Andrea D'Urso
Jane Rines

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Year Ending December 31,1997

To the Citizens of Merrimac,

The progress of the Town of Merrimac for the calendar year 1997 was right in line with the direction outlined in last years Town Report, Many of the issues completed in 1997 were started in 1996 and before, and came to fruition in 1997.

The most notable completion was in the area of Finance Director. The search committee advertised for, and received resumes from, a number of individuals interested in becoming Merrimac's first Finance Director. After their search and interview process they made a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen, who unanimously agreed, to hire William J. Gustus to the position. The board has been extremely satisfied with their selection and hope that "Bill" stays with the town for a long time to come. His assistance to the board in all area's of the operation of the town is invaluable. Not only has he organized the town in the area of finance, but his knowledge of grant writing and law have allowed him to apply for grants and then complete purchase and sale agreements to acquire several parcels of land.

The retirement of the Town Accountant, David Hitchcock, was unexpected due to David's health but a smooth transition was accomplished by his assisting the new Finance Director to get acclimated.

The board would like to publicly thank State Representative Harriett L. Stanley for her help in promoting and obtaining the enabling legislation for the position of Finance Director. The wheels at the State House turn slowly and Harriett helped by guiding the legislation through the House and Senate for the town's benefit.

The purchase of a large parcel of land off of Highland Road was completed with the help of the Open Space Committee and the Finance Director. This will help to connect the hiking trails to the Town forest.

The River Road sewer extension was started with the help of the Finance Director and his ability to manage funds from diverse sources.

A parcel of land on West Main St. was purchased for use by the Town. The library search committee identified the parcel and after town meeting approval

the Finance Director completed the purchase and sale of the parcel. With some future grants it is hoped, by many, that a new library will be erected on this site.

The Board of Health and the Finance Director applied for and received funding for assisting homeowners in replacing failed septic systems.

The SWAT (Solid Waste Advisory Team) and the Finance Director completed a yeoman's task of identifying and then going out to bid for town trash and recycling pickup. After bids were received breakdowns of the various services were compared and two vendors were selected to be interviewed and one of them will be selected to start on March 1, 1998.

The landfill is on schedule to be closed on March 31, 1998. The site preparation that has been done by the present landfill operator, ASI (Arthur Schofield Inc.), is nothing short of unbelievable. The operator has been following grade maps provided by the town's engineer, Steve Trettel of GZA Environmental, and has the landfill 95% ready for the completion phase.

The Telecommunications Advisory Committee completed a new contract with New England Cablevision that will assure the town of the newest equipment and services available in the industry.

After the annual elections in May, the Board of Selectmen reorganized with Walter Steeves as Chairman and Sandra Venner as Clerk. The board members each continued in their special assignments with Mr. Steeves completing his term as President of the Essex County Selectmen's Association, Mr. Hoyt continuing as voting delegate to the Essex County Advisory Board and Ms. Venner on the Pentucket Regional Agreement Task Force.

Bus service to the town was approved by the voters at a special town meeting and service commenced December 1, 1997. In the short time it has been available there seems to be a significant number of users and that will help in keeping the service.

The board would like to thank everyone that has been involved this past year and invite anyone who hasn't been involved to jump into the fray.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter W. Steeves, Chairman
Sandra H. Venner
Jeffrey W. Hoyt

Annual Report of the Merrimac Housing Authority/1997

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen.

We began 1997 where we left off in 1996, attempting to assist those most in need of low income housing. During the month of January, our Section 8 Leased Housing Program opened its waiting list for the first time in many years in an attempt to develop a waiting list of eligible applicants for this very popular program. During those two days the Merrimac Housing Authority gave out over 1600 applications to families and individuals from Merrimac and beyond. Processing all these applications was a monumental task for our small agency, however I am happy to report that we have since gone to that waiting list several times to issue Section 8 certificates to those in need, some of whom are from the town. The opening of our waiting list only served to emphasize the incredible need for housing assistance in Massachusetts and Merrimac. The Merrimac Housing Authority with only 19 Section 8 certificates under management attracted applicants from as far away as Provincetown during this 2 day period. In order to assist those in our immediate area, the Authority was able to give a local and working preference to those applicants who could verify that they were residents in the Town of Merrimac and or Amesbury. Currently the MHA subsidizes 6 families in the town of Merrimac and 13 others outside the town, using this program.

With regard to our elderly/disabled housing units located at Merri Village, the MHA without the help of state modernization funds continued to improve its facilities out of its own reserve funds. Further paving improvements were made on the main road and entryway to Merri Village at a cost of approximately \$4000.00. New rugs and flooring were installed in a number of units as they became vacant. A number of occupied units were painted during the summer, giving long time residents a fresh new appearance to their apartments. The Authority was also able to improve the appearance of its main office in Amesbury, painting the exterior last fall. This office had not been painted in close to 15 years.

During the past year we had 6 vacancies at Merri Village which were promptly filled by applicants from our state waiting list. Our agency has also maintained its percentage of 13.5% non-elderly tenants in its elderly housing units. as required by the state regulations.

Our family units remained fully occupied during 1997, providing subsidy to 4 local families.

The financial picture of the MRA continues to improve despite small allowable budget increases from the Department of Housing and Community Development. As of the end of the fiscal year in June 1997 the MHA had

approximately \$66,000 in reserves under its 400-state housing program. This is a far cry from the financial situation the Authority had back in 1992. We have been able to improve our position through conservative management and diligent adherence to sound fiscal policies. Due to our relatively small size, we understand the need to remain prudent in our spending without seriously sacrificing the needs of our residents. Plans for the coming year, include continued road and walkway repair, additional carpet and floor installation, and the purchase of a number of new refrigerators and stoves.

It was a year of change for the Merrimac Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. During the past year we saw two members get re-appointed to new terms, 1 member resign, and a new member come on board in December of 1997. We look forward to working together as a full board during 1998.

Finally, we would like to remind all residents that a regulation passed by the state legislature

2 years ago to encourage more elderly/disabled applicants to apply for assistance, resulted in the elimination of Asset limits for elderly/disabled applicants. Applicants are no longer ineligible if their assets are above \$25,000. Rather asset income from interest earned is figured into total income as a means of qualifying for public housing.

The MHA also continues to urge those in need of or interested in elderly/disabled housing to apply and be put on our waiting list. Individuals who are 60 years of age or older, or certifiably handicapped/disabled are eligible to apply. The Merrimac Housing Authority consistently has a short waiting list for its elderly housing development. Please check with our office for the income qualifications at 346-8231.

Thanks goes out to all the Town Departments for their assistance during the year, especially at Merri Village. Special thanks to the Town for their effort in re-establishing bus service to the town and to Merri Village. This improvement in transportation service is very much appreciated by those in Merri Village who are now able to get out regularly to do their errands. As always my appreciation goes out to Mr. Samoisette for keeping our sites looking nice, and to the Merrimac Housing Authority Board of Commissioners for their support and suggestions throughout the year.

Very truly yours,

Frank Petras
Executive Director

Board of Commissioners as of Dec. 31, 1997

Richard Emery Chairman 67 Church Street	Term Expires May 2002
Geri Shepherd Vice Chairman and Governor's Appointee 26 River Road	Term Expires June 1998
Dorothy Cloyd Treasurer 97 E. Main Street	Term Expires May 2000
Stephen True Vice Treasurer Box 22	Term Expires May 1998
Shirley Jones 24 Nichols Street Member at Large	Term Expires May 1998

Housing Authority Personnel

Mr. Frank M. Petras Certified PHM Employed 8/17/92	Executive Director (Part Time)
Ms. Jeanne Koch	Admin. Asst. (Part Time) employed 4/18/95
Ms. Brenda Perry	Leased Housing Admin (Pt. Time) employed 7/17/93
Ms. Alice Granlund	Tenant Selection Coord. (Pt. Time) (part time) Certified PUM employed 5/8/95

Maintenance Department

Mr. Robert Samoisette

Maintenance Mechanic (Pt. Time)
employed 11/1/91

Housing Authority Developments

Family Housing: 705-1

Opened in 1983 DeLeaded 1996

Locations-. Lincoln and Green Streets

Number of units in Total: 4 (2 and 3 Bedrooms)

Elderly Housing: 667-1 Merri Village

Opened in 1972

Location: 52 Middle Street

Number of units: 48 (1 bedrooms)

Leased Housing Department

The Merrimac Housing Authority operates leased housing programs which provide rent subsidies to low income individuals and families who live in privately owned homes and apartment buildings. The MHA does not own or maintain these properties, but works with local landlords and the local board of health to assure their compliance with the various state/federal code requirements, prior to lease up of its tenants.

Section 8 Rental Assistance Program (since 1978)

This is our primary leased housing program. It is federally funded by the Dept. of HUD. All Section 8 Certificates are mobile although the majority of our tenants do live in the town of Merrimac.

Currently the agency has an allotment of 19 Section 8 Certificates, which are all currently issued to tenants in need

Qualifying Income Limits for All Federal Housing Programs: (Effective 12/10/96)

All income qualification figures for Federal- Programs are based on gross annual amounts:

Number of Persons in Household	Max. Allowable Income
1	\$19,550
2	\$22,300
3	\$25,100
4	\$27,900
5	\$30,350
6	\$32,350

Qualifications & Income Limits for all State Housing Programs (Effective 8/1/96) These are **net** amounts after deductions.

Number of Persons in Household	Max. Allowable Income
1	\$29,100
2	\$23,300
3	\$37,450
4	\$41,600
5	\$44,950

There is no longer any asset limit for the state housing program. Income from assets will be imputed and added to annual income to determine qualification under the income guidelines above.

Section 8 Fair Market Rents

The enclosed listing of the **maximum** allowable fair market rents are put out by the Dept. of HUD for our region.

Rents include utilities.

Effective 10/97

0 Bedrooms:	\$ 417
1 Bedroom:	\$ 504
2 Bedroom:	\$ 633
3 Bedroom:	\$ 791
4 Bedroom:	\$ 974

Example: The housing authority will subsidize a family with a 3 bedroom certificate for an apartment that can cost up to \$791.00 per month, Depending on its condition, size and amenities. The family would then pay 30% of their income toward the total rent amount, and the Housing Authority would pay the balance.

Residents at State Aided Merri Village pay approximately 30% of their monthly income for rent-, all utilities are included and are heated electrically.

Residents at State Aided Family Housing pay approximately 25% of their monthly income for rent: Utilities are not included and are heated by gas-

Management Summary:

The Merrimac Housing Authority operates 3 separate housing programs, which account for 71 units of low income housing. In addition the Authority staff administer 9 housing programs for the Amesbury Housing Authority and a total of 375 units of public housing. The agency also monitors all modernization work and is in charge with applying for additional funding when it is available.

The Merrimac Housing Authority Regular Meetings are currently held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 52 Merri Village at 4:00pm. The Annual Meeting is held on the 3rd Wednesday in June.

1997 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FIRE ENGINEERS MERRIMAC FIRE DEPARTMENT

1997 was a stabilizing year for the Fire Department.

The Board organized as follows:

Chief Brian W. Peavey, Sr.

Deputy Chief Ralph W. Spencer

Deputy Chief Norman W. Armstrong

At the end of April we suffered the retirement due to age of Edwin (Eddy) Noone after 42+ years. This was very difficult for him as well as the rest of us who have served so many years with him. To recognize his service, the Department dedicated the new Engine 34 to him which is noted on a plaque on the truck.

In July we took delivery of our new Engine 34 which was authorized at the 1996 Town Meeting. This gives us two new Engines within three years. We also got the ladder truck refurbished and back in service. We now have a fleet of vehicles that is the envy of any department.

As always, the members are training very hard to ensure the best service to the Townspeople. They always take pride in their performance and do so with such professionalism.

The Department continues to present a very aggressive Fire Prevention Program under the direction of Deputy Spencer. We also held another Open House which involved more Town and local departments. These events can do nothing but help us deliver the message of prevention and protection of our lives and possessions.

As always we thank the Couplings, Board of Selectmen, Capital Planning Committee and all other Town and State agencies for their support over the years.

Income for 1997 is as follows:	Ambulance:	\$49,231
	Inspection Fees:	\$5,970

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Brian W. Peavey, Sr.

MERRIMAC FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

Chief Brian W. Peavey Sr.

* Deputy Chief Ralph W. Spencer

* Deputy Chief Norman W. Armstrong

Officers

Captain Wayne Brooks
Captain Michael Sloban
Captain Norman Condon
Captain William Dow

LT. Robert Corthell
LT. Larry Fisher
LT. Joseph Conroy Sr.
LT. James David

Regular Members

Harry Ellis
* Gregory Habgood
* Patricia Jordan
Clifton Judson
* Henry Kelly
* Elaine McCarthy
Patrick Noone
Robert Peters
*Eric Shears
Wayne Smart II
Jay Soucy

Thomas Flinn
James Hume
Thomas Jordan
Mark Judson
* Scott Maker
Edwin Noone(ret.4/30/97)
*Brian Peavey, Jr.
James Sevigny
* Wayne Smart, Sr.
Lester Smith
* Mark Soucy

Substitute Members

Arthur Amirault
Steven Brown
* Kathy Dow
Anthony McDonough

Wayne Armstrong
Loren Clark
Alan Mazur

* Denotes EMT

MERRIMAC FIRE DEPARTMENT MASTER BOX LIST

Box No.	Facility:	Address
4	Municipal Building	16 East Main St.
5	Town Hall	Merrimac Square
9	Little Peoples Pre School	59 West Main St.
12	Library	34 West Main St.
13	Carriage Square	38 West Main St.
14	Time Out	80 West Main St.
15	Harbor Schools	84 West Main St.
16	N.E. Telephone	Central St.
17	Bosco's Cinema Pub	34 Broad St.
18	Carriage Court	Mill St.
19	Advanced Laundry	Federal Way
23	Merrimac Savings Bank	Merrimac Square
25	Pilgrim Congo Church	27 Church St.
112	Nativity Church	4 Green St.
132	Donaghue School	Union St.
133	FEBBO Veterinary	Union St. Ext.
142	Light & Water Depts	West Main St.
171	Merri-Village	Middle St.
271	Sweetsir School	Church St.
341	Waste Treatment Plant	Federal Way

1996 Fire Department Responses:

MEETING/TRAININGS/WORK	46
AMBULANCE CALLS	497
CAR ACCIDENTS	43
CO ALARMS	10
VEHICLE FIRES	14
FOOD ON THE STOVE	26
ALARMS SOUNDING	34
MATTRESS FIRE	1
UTILITY PROBLEMS	6
ILLEGAL BURNS	4
FURNACE PROBLEM	4
WOOD/BRUSH/GRASS	19
CHIMNEY FIRE	3
HAZ-MAT INCIDENT	1
OVEN FIRES	4
BURNING RAG	1
BOATING INCIDENTS	3
ODOR OF GAS	13
STREET SWEEPER FIRE	1
LIGHTNING STRIKE	1
STRUCTURE FIRE	4
BICYCLE INCIDENTS	2
LOCK OUT	1
TRENCH CAVE-IN	1
MUTUAL AID AMBULANCE:	
GIVEN	12
RECEIVED	7
MUTUAL AID FIRE:	
GIVEN	7
TOTAL RESPONSES	496

POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

General Services	2,589
Aggravated Assault	4
Breaking & Entering	42
Larceny	52
Stolen Motor Vehicles	5
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles	13
Fraud	1
Vandalism	107
Weapons Violations	43
Sex Offenses	1
Drug Law Violations	2
Offenses Against Family and Children	6
Operating Under the Influence of Liquor	2
Disorderly Conduct	13
Field Investigations	131
General Offenses	23
Trespassing	26
Civil Complaints	34
Juvenile Offenses	40
Local Ordinance Violations	26
Missing Persons	12
Lost & Found	73
General Disturbances	31
Family Disturbances	60
Gathering Disturbances	65
Youths Playing in Street	31
Noise Complaints	185
Annoying Telephone Calls	28
Suspicious Activity	148
Officer Wanted	648
Escorts	3
Prisoner Transports	7
Assist Citizens	288
TOW	7
Transports	37
Building Checks	257
Message Deliveries	287
Animal Complaints	519
Assist Municipal Agencies	251
Emergency Services	14
Ambulance	243
Medical/Mental	11
Reported Deaths	6
Incapacitated Persons	8
Fire Alarms	145
Burglar Alarms	314
Assist Other Police Departments	462

Traffic Complaints	2,172
Speeding Complaints	17
Leaving the Scene of an Accident	12
Property Damage	12
Motor Vehicle Accidents	20
Personal Injury	20
Boating Complaints	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	72
Traffic Control	24
Abandoned Motor Vehicles	4
Intra-Department Services	26
Days in District Court	122
Days in Superior Court	20
Servicing Cruiser	220
Vehicle Pursuits	1
Summons Served	22
Citations Issued	435
Warnings	48
Summons	341
Arrests	46

ARRESTS FOR THE YEAR 1997

Male Residents	31
Male Non-Residents	63
Female Residents	2
Female Non-Residents	10
Male Residents (Juveniles)	6
Male Non-Residents (Juveniles)	6
Female Non-Residents (Juveniles)	1

PROTECTIVE CUSTODY FOR THE YEAR 1997

Male Residents	4
Male Non-Residents	7
Female Residents	2
Male Non-Residents (Juveniles)	3
Female Residents (Juveniles)	1

I wish to thank the Board of Selectmen, the Citizens of the Town of Merrimac and other different Boards who assisted and supported me and the police department in the last year.

Respectfully submitted,
James A. Flynn, Jr.
Chief of Police

**PENTUCKET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 1997**

The 1996-97 school year was another in which the Pentucket Regional School District provided quality educational programming for our 3,260 pre-K - 12 (730 at Donaghue and Sweetsir) students. Our students continue to excel in academics and in a wide range of co-curricular activities. In the spring of 1997 the Massachusetts Department of Education administered to all third and tenth graders throughout Massachusetts the IOWA Tests of Educational Development as part of the statewide assessment of student academic achievement, which is at the core of the Educational Reform Act. Using the nationally normed IOWA Test, tenth graders were assessed in the areas of reading, math, science, and social studies. Third graders were tested in reading only. Pentucket students performed well at both levels. Merrimac third graders as a group showed solid reading skills as indicated in the fact that the Donaghue School's average student score was equal to or better than nearly 78% of the national sample. Pentucket's tenth graders also showed strong performance on the Massachusetts Spring of 1997 IOWA Achievement Test. An analysis of our students' performance on this nationally normed 10th grade test (which measures student achievement in areas such as reading and vocabulary in content areas, language expression, quantitative thinking, and analyzing information in history, geography, physical and life sciences) shows a composite score of 76 percent (indicating that our tenth graders' average student score was equal to or better than 76% of the national sample). From a state perspective, this composite score indicates that Pentucket's 10th graders performed at a level that placed them in the highest percentile rank group (75-99), only 21% of Massachusetts districts scored in this ranking.

Striving for academic excellence continues to be at the center of our district's mission. During the 1996-97 school year the Sweetsir and Donaghue Schools continued to look for ways to enhance the educational opportunities for all students. Curriculum upgrading initiatives to better align our instructional program with state curriculum frameworks have been on-going. Curriculum overview evenings were organized and presented to parents at each grade level. Teachers addressed curriculum goals, grade level expectations and teaching strategies that are used in classrooms. Curriculum fairs were held in grades K-2. Monthly newsletters were redesigned to improve communications. Administrative coffees were held in the fall and spring, where parents were given an opportunity to meet with the administration and discuss issues in an informal forum. This was consistent with the school council priority to offer more opportunities to improve parent-teacher communication. Another goal was to continue to emphasize the importance of making our school climate one that is positive, safe, and conducive to learning. Student behavior guidelines

were established and reviewed at each grade level. "Reflection" and "time to ponder" sheets were implemented for students' use during conflict situations that occurred during class time or on the play area. Conflict resolution strategies were also reinforced with lessons from the school counselor at grades 2, 4, 6. The staff continues to utilize the conflict resolution strategies that are presented in the health curriculum. All parent volunteers and visitors to our schools were required to sign in at each office and wear a visitor's badge in the building.

Technology continues to be a major goal for the Sweetsir and Donaghue staff and students. With the support and guidance of Marie Scher, technology specialist, staff participated in staff development programs to enhance skills in using technology for classroom interdisciplinary curriculum. The on-going support from the P.T.O. has provided the funding to automate the Sweetsir School library and purchase supportive materials to accomplish this major goal. The Save Our Schools committee held a fund raising auction in March (\$13,000), along with the matching Harriet Stanley grant (\$13,000); and these proceeds enabled the completion of the networking project at Donaghue School.

The Before and After School Day Care Program located at the Dr. Sweetsir School continues to increase in enrollment. This tuition based program offers a safe and nurturing environment with an array of experiences to help children in grades K-6 explore and grow. The program offers a variety of age appropriate activities ranging from arts and crafts, sports activities, stories, drama, games and computer technology for the children to explore and make discoveries. The program seeks to stimulate the growth and development of the children's multiple intelligences, social skills, cooperative interaction with the various age groups, as well as their self-esteem. The After School Enrichment Program continues to provide varied activities for the students. The ever popular P.T.O. ski program continues to be successful with over 64 students taking lessons and participating in recreational skiing for six weeks every winter. The Cultural Arts Program, coordinated by Connie Nucci, parent, and grade level teachers have brought a variety of enrichment programs to our schools. During the 1996-97 school year the following programs were made available to our students:

- * Bill Shontz, Read a Book (K-6) Music
- * Poobley Greegy Puppet Theater (Grades 3-6) Puppets
- * Mr. Magnet (Grades 3-6) Science
- * Pyramids & Pharohs (Grade 6) History
- * Giles LaRoche, Illustrator (Grade 3) Author
- * Celtic Minstrels (Grades K-2) Music
- * Ellen Goethels, Marine Biologist (Grade 2) Science
- * Jeffrey Kelly, Author. Writer in Residence (Grades 4-5)
- * Jill Stover, Author/Illustrator (Grades K-2)

- * N.E. Aquarium Tide Pool (K)
- * Museum of Science, Weather Kit (Grade 6) Science
- * Curious Creatures (Pre-K)

We continue to encourage a home-school partnership through our parent volunteer program. In May we celebrated the achievement of our 150 school volunteers with a Special Appreciation Day. Volunteers supported our teachers and students by working in classrooms, the technology labs, and the libraries. Parents were involved in read aloud programs, writers' workshop, pen pal projects, drama club, artist in residence programs, and our guest speaker forum. We would like to thank the P.T.O. for their continued outstanding commitment to the children and staff in both the Sweetsir and Donaghue Schools.

Pentucket Middle School served 520 students (268 7th and 252 8th graders) during the 1996-97 school year; and there were many noteworthy accomplishments by our students and staff. The overall performance of our 8th graders on the 1996 administration of the Massachusetts Educational Assessment Program in the areas of language arts, math, science, and social studies was the highest since the Department of Education began this testing program in 1988, with Pentucket's eighth graders scoring considerably above the state average in all academic content areas. A number of curriculum improvement initiatives took place in 1996-97, which included the piloting of a new writing curriculum, the integration of science, math, and technology (our district was recognized by the Partnerships Advancing Learning in Math and Science or "PALMS"), and world language activities that involved our students in letter exchanges with students in other countries and participation in "culture box" exchanges. Moreover, there were particularly noteworthy achievements in the performing arts. The Middle School Band earned a gold medal in the Northeast Regional Competition (Great East Festival); and our chorus was awarded the silver medal in the Northeast Regional Competition. The Middle School also received an award from the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce in recognition of activities relative to school-business partnerships with Massachusetts Electric. The School Council, administration and staff continue to work together to meet the social, emotional, intellectual, and physical needs of our middle school students in order to nurture them to become confident and successful learners.

Our high school served 708 students in the 1996-97 school year; and we will be experiencing significant enrollment increases at the high school (a point made quite obvious in considering we've been graduating around 160 students and had a class of 268 7th graders in 1996-97). Our academic program remains strong as indicated in the aforementioned state academic assessment results (mentioned earlier), as well as the College Board testing programs; and it is designed to meet the learning needs of all students. In addition to hiring

additional professional staff in order to meet our district's class size ratio of 22 students to one teacher, increased requirements in academic course loads (consistent with Education Reform Time on Learning requirements) were instituted. Additionally, the school committee approved several new course offerings (oceanography, Microsoft Office, creative writing, elements of music) and added interscholastic golf and winter indoor girls' track for implementation in the 1997-98 school year. Over 85% of our high school students participated in some kind of enrichment or co-curricular program at the high school. Through a wide array of co-curricular offerings and enrichment opportunities (performing arts, many clubs that extend the curriculum, athletic teams, science and arts festivals, etc.), students are actively engaging in activities that enrich our solid core academic program. In the performing arts, many of our high school students were recognized not only through our district arts festival but also through statewide programs such as the Boston Globe Art Awards, the Wang Center Awards, the 6th Congressional District Art Awards, the Northeast District Vocals and Instrumentals, and the Massachusetts Drama Guild. Moreover, our high school students also have available to them unique learning opportunities such as foreign exchange programs through our world language department, "dual enrollment" courses at local colleges, school to career experiences, and community service.

Our Pentucket communities continue to have every reason to feel proud of our graduates. Listed below are the Merrimac graduates of the Class of 1997. Their post high school plans indicated that 83% will be attending a 4 year or 2 year college program in the fall, 14% will be going to work, and 3% will be entering the military.

Danielle Lynne Allain
Eric J. Boles
Martha Lewis Burzynski
Brad Calderwood
Edward Cameron
Pamela Lynn Carey
Amy Lea Chase
Michael Joseph Con-nier
John T. Countie, Jr.
Joseph A. DeSilva
Katherine Margaret Fiorello
Ashley Orcutt Gadd
Kathleen Ann Gadsby
Rachel Alissa Garte
Nichole Elana Geise
Matthew B. Gozycki
Shannon Maureen Hamilton

Amanda Leola Ireland
Harold E. Lloyd, III
Harper R. Marshall
Sara Beatrice Mattinson
Rian Dennis McFadden
Benjamin Evans Mezzapelle
Laura Elizabeth Paris
Miranda Leah Paul
Jason Michael Peardon
Erin Marie Powell
Michael Charlton Reynolds
Dustin W. Rhodes
Jessica Lee Roche
Paul J. Roddy
Beth Young SanAntonio
Jarrod E. Smith
Matthew J. Smith
Sheila M. Smith
Roy Steeves
Erik Christian Syvertson
David F. Talmage
Alicia M. Thompson
Amanda Lee Weiker
Jessica Lynn Westnedge
Kerri Lynn Wise
Erica Lynne Woodbury
Eric Mark Zagranis

A statement of School District Revenues and Expenditures has been prepared by our treasurer and business manager and follows this report.

Brian Young, Chairman
Pentucket Regional School Committee

PENTUCKET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures General Fund
For the Year Ended June 30, 1997

REVENUES

Assessments to Member Towns	\$8,101,395
State Aid	\$7,861,110
Interest Income	\$79,288
Miscellaneous Receipts	\$29,167
Total Revenues	\$16,070,960

EXPENDITURES

Bagnall Elementary	\$2,018,809
Donaghue & Sweetsir Elementary	\$2,297,185
Page Elementary	\$1,856,646
Pentucket Middle School	\$2,108,548
Pentucket High School	\$3,869,848
District Wide Services	\$3,785,376
Total Expenditures	\$15,936,412

Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	\$134,548
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Contribution from the Town of Merrimac was	\$2,649,025
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Capital Assessment paid by Merrimac was	\$267,572
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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
TRUSTEES OF MERRIMAC PUBLIC LIBRARY
for the year ending December 31, 1997

To the citizens of Merrimac:

The trustees of Merrimac Public Library are pleased to present their 121st annual report highlighting the activities of another very successful year.

The most absorbing issue of the year has involved the topic of library expansion. At the special town meeting held in June, the town voted to purchase the six acre site on West Main Street (formerly occupied by the Hogpenny Restaurant) as the best opportunity to acquire the land needed for a new library.

In November, a large cross-section of the community attended a public forum hosted by the trustees to help determine the future use of the Thomas H. Hoyt Memorial Library building. Feelings were strong that the building should be preserved for its rich history, architectural integrity, and aesthetic appeal at the corner of Locust and Main Streets. Neighbors were critical of plans to move the building to the new site and had concerns about the use of the vacant lot. Based on the thoughtful dialogue of this forum, the trustees later voted not to move the building to the new site complex. Alternative uses for the building are being explored. We seek to preserve the building for an appropriate use while not violating the terms of the Hoyt bequest.

The trustees have appointed a Building Committee to work with architects O'Neil and Pennoyer to draw up the schematic plans. Every town department has been invited to send an attending delegate. There are also several "citizens-at-large" serving on the committee. The two voting trustee delegates are Yvonne Cosgrove and Nanette Becker. Former library trustee Rick Pinciario has been selected as the Chairman of this important group. Through aggressive action now, the trustees plan to be well prepared to apply for library construction grants when available.

Another important accomplishment during the year has been the expansion of library hours. Based on the data collected from an extensive survey done the year before, voters at town meeting approved the extra money in our annual budget to allow for Saturday and more evening hours. Circulation numbers are being monitored carefully to evaluate the effectiveness of the new hours.

Town meeting also appropriated \$9,000 for the purpose of constructing a handicap access ramp at the front of the library. Action on installation has been delayed due to the decision on whether or not to move the building.

After the May elections, the trustees reorganized with Susan Coburn and Jeffrey Hoyt serving as Co-Chairs. Yvonne Cosgrove, again, cheerfully serves as Secretary. New trustee J. Rodger Morphett has very kindly taken on the role of oversight of weekly warrants and vouchers.

Finally, our sincere appreciation must be extended to the many organizations that have helped the Merrimac Public Library during the year. The Friends of the Library, Merrimac Cultural Council, Pilgrim Congregational Church, Wolverine Corporation and the Merrimac Tool Company are all to be thanked as well as the many individual donors. The trustees also wish to specifically thank Finance Director William Gustus for his tireless and skillful assistance in negotiating the complexities of the land purchase for library expansion.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Coburn
Jeffrey W. Hoyt, Co-Chairs

MERRIMAC PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS FOR 1997

Circulation	Adults	Juvenile	Subtotal
Books/Periodicals & Audio/Video	24,317	13,747	38,064
	Acquisitions		
Purchased	1,798	1302	3100
Donations	29	28	57
	Withdrawn		
Books	1,497	849	2346
Nonprint	44	53	97
	Inventory		
Books	18,662	11,404	30,820
Periodicals	74	7	81

Videos	551	63	614
Audio	387	23	410
Multi-media		82	82
Computer Programs (in library use)	8	5	13
Loan to:			
Interlibrary Loan			490
Borrowed From:			
Interlibrary Loan			660
Supplementary Deposit Center			1,892
Total Active Patrons			4,068

A total of 158 story hours and 8 P.J. story hours were held, along with 10 special family programs. There were 17 public meetings accommodated.

The Library has seen an increase in new patrons this year, with so many people moving into town. We welcome them all and hope the library can be of service to them.

The Library is connected to the Internet With patron access and many have taken advantage of this service. We also have a computer workstation with Windows that patrons may use to write reports, resumes or just become familiar with the computer. The library's collection is on the Internet through the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium.

The e-mail address is mer@mvlc.lib.ma.us. We can also be reached through Library @ Merrimac.greenet.net

Respectfully submitted
Carole McCarthy, Director

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MERRIMAC COUNCIL ON AGING

There have been many issues that the Council has faced this year, but the most serious has been how to renovate and expand the Senior Center Building. The Senior Center is housed in a building that was built in 1871 as a Fire Station. About 1881, it was moved and an addition was attached at its current location. The Fire Station was converted into a Senior Center in 1976-77, with State and Federal funding. However, the second floor was never renovated. With the population growth in the town of Merrimac and the increase numbers of elderly, the staff of the Council on Aging, under the direction of C.O.A. Director Laura Dillingham-Mailman, has worked diligently to increase services to meet the growing needs.

A Senior Center Building Committee was formed (John Cryan, Herbert Gynan, James Murphy, Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Terri Walden, and Stuart Zibell with William Gustus, Finance Director, Elizabeth T. Pittman, ex-officio and Laura D. Mailman) to meet with the C.O.A. Board of Directors. The committee met with the Capital Planning Committee, The Finance Committee, and the Selectmen and with contractors, engineers and trades people to determine a course of action regarding the expansion of the Senior Center.

The Building Committee recommended proceeding with developing plans that would meet the needs and current ADA requirements. The Merrimac Council on Aging hired Woodman Associates Architects after the *Friends of The Merrimac Council on Aging* agreed to pay for the plans. These plans would enable the town to write a grant trying to secure money for the project.

The Council on Aging continues to provide activities and services to the elders and to the community as a whole:

Service for non-elders-anyone, regardless of age, is able to receive information and referrals for services to the elderly, may participate in support groups, classes, and trips. Many other services are provided to the handicapped.

Advocacy-Through this agency the Director and Outreach worker are able to act as advocates for the elderly.

Meal Site-The Senior Center provides a place where seniors can come for a nutritious meal, 3 days a week (4 days beginning September '97-Tuesday through Friday) for a donation of only \$2/meal. The meals are prepared by *Harbor School, Inc.*- Merrimac and Amesbury campuses.

Meals on Wheels-the Merrimack Valley Nutrition Program served meals to homebound seniors in Merrimac, allowing them to return to their home after hospitalization or to remain in the home and not in rehabilitation or nursing homes.

Free Health Clinics-Blood pressure, Cholesterol Screening, Blood Sugar Testing, Hearing Clinics, Home Health Visiting Nurse Association Clinics, Tallman Eye Associates.

Transportation-Transportation is a critical issue to the seniors in Merrimac. Through a dedicated group of volunteer drivers (Northern Essex Elderly Transport), and the Groveland & Merrimac Council on Aging Van, the C.O.A. is able to provide seniors and handicapped persons with rides to medical appointments, hospitals, shopping, meal sites, etc.

Legal Aid-Through Merrimac Valley Legal Services, a legal aide is available on site once a month.

Exercise Classes-Low impact-low stress exercise classes with a certified instructor- bowling and line dancing are offered to increase mobility, strength and health.

Outreach-Outreach is one of the most important services provided by the Council on Aging. The outreach worker is responsible for calling homebound or sick elders, visiting with them, keeping them informed of services available to them, and helps to coordinate services.

Alzheimer Support Group-The Council on Aging sponsors a support group for *anyone* who is seeking information and support in dealing with Alzheimers and other forms of dementia or memory loss.

Social-The Senior Center is open daily for coffee and donuts (provided by *Donna's Donuts*) on a drop-in basis for seniors and their guests. Activities that are offered weekly include hobbies, entertainment, and special interest classes. Trips are sponsored for education and fun at affordable prices.

SHARE-The C.O.A. continues to sponsor S. H.A. R. E. (Self-Help and Resource Exchange) a national program that enables anyone, regardless of age or income, to exchange volunteer hours and money for groceries at a reduced cost. The program has suffered from lack of volunteers to pick up the groceries at the warehouse and to supervise the finances. Unless we are able to solve these problems the program will be discontinued.

The CenterPiece-The senior newsletter provides the seniors and interested members of the community with health & educational information, updates from the state's Attorney General, a calendar of activities and programs, columns written by Eileen Stepanian, town nurse, and the Director, Laura D. Mailman.

Community-The Council on Aging has actively supported and anticipated in *Merrimac Old Home Days* with the Annual Bean Supper, Ice Cream Social, and entertainment. The Council on Aging is also proud to sponsor the *Merrimac Garden Club*.

Community Building Use-The COA has been pleased to provide a meeting space for the Merrimac Athletic Association, The Soccer Club, The Finance Committee, The Conservation Committee, SWAT, The Board of Selectmen, and public forums.

The Merrimac Council on Aging is especially grateful to our volunteers and to the Friends of the Merrimac Council on Aging. Their efforts have saved the town of Merrimac thousands of dollars and have made our Council one of the best in the state.

Respectfully submitted,

The Members of the Board of the Council on Aging

Elizabeth T. Pittman, Chairman
Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Vice Chairman
Terri Walden, Treasurer
Dorothy Lumsden, Secretary
Ellie Adams
Mary Cheney
Herbert Gynan
Irene Kimbrell
Inez Lund
John (Roy) Minihan
James Murphy
Dorothy Cloyd, Associate

WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL OPERATIONAL REPORT

TO: The Honorable Board of Selectmen

FROM: Paul Tucker, Whittier Representative
Karen Sarkisian, Superintendent/Director

Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School is entering its twenty fourth year. To date we have graduated 5,896 students from a regular day school. The enrollment for the Evening School from our community : 45

The October 1, 1996 Day School Enrollment:

	Boys	Girls
Grade 9	8	4
Grade 10	7	2
Grade 11	13	6
Grade 12	7	5

Total 52

1997 Graduates – 9

The cost to your community for the school year 1996-1997 was \$212,774.00

Respectfully yours,

Paul M. Tucker, Merrimac Representative
Karen Sarkisian, Superintendent/Director

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MERRIMAC WATER DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1997

The Board of Commissioners and Manager for the Merrimac Water Department present their annual report to the Town of Merrimac for the year 1997.

During 1997 there were a total of 44 connections added to the town's water distribution system bringing the total number of connections to 1,623.

Privilege Fee

\$70,400 was collected during 1997 for new connections to the water system and deposited to a special fund entitled "Privilege Fee", established to fund appropriations for the purpose of operating, maintaining and improving the water system.

Surplus Funds

A transfer of funds from FY 96 year end surplus in the amount of \$43,000 provided Merrimac Water Department with funding to complete the installation and connection of electrical components for the new deep wells at E. Main St. Wellfield. With the funds MWD was also able to coordinate and begin preparations for refurbishing of the filters at E. Main Street Water Filtration Plant. The plans for that work is expected to be complete during the beginning of 1998.

Improvements

Redevelopment of all 6 wells at Bear Hill (Sargent Pit) Wellfield was completed during May and October 1997. The cleaning of the wells provided improved pumping capabilities with significant improvement to all the wells.

Year end pumping statistics indicated unaccounted for water use down to 4.15%, which was a notable reduction from previous years. The improvement in unaccounted for use is greatly attributed to an aggressive meter replacement program.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Soucy, Manager
for the Board of Water Commissioners
Norman Sande Term Expires 1998
Norman Denault Term Expires 1999
David Vance Term Expires 2000

**MERRIMAC WATER DEPARTMENT
INCOME STATEMENT
JUNE 30,1997**

REVENUE

Residential, Comm., Municipal Rates	512,274.03
Water Sprinklers	300.00
Water Miscellaneous	37,967.55
Fiscal Year Liens	4,010.18
<u>TOTAL REVENUE COLLECTED</u>	554,551.76

EXPENSES

Manager's Salary	15,198.00
Office Salary	8,200.00
Water Dept. Wages	82,653.12
Overtime	12,686.15
Office Supplies	12,242.65
Fuel Heat	10,613.67
Purchased Power	34,143.91
Stock	37,156.04
Transportation	4,966.38
Engineering	15,976.60
Real Estate Taxes (NH)	1,951.00
Water Testing	5,377.81
Chemicals	19,357.40
Cross Connection	200.00
Roadway & Excavation	4,837.63
Commissioners Salary	840.00

TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES **266,401.16**

TOTAL WATER BOND EXPENSE - FILTER PLANT **166,540.00**

WATER DEPT. SHARE INS., WORKERS COMP, FICA **15,000.00**

WATER DEPT ENCUMBRANCE **27,000.00**

TOTAL WATER DEPT. EXPENSE **475,441.16**

GROSS PROFIT (LOSS) **79,110.60**

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MERRIMAC LIGHT DEPARTMENT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31,1997

IN LIEU OF TAX PAYMENT: MLD contributed \$13,000 to the town as an in lieu of tax payment, as well as providing streetlighting with energy charges of \$14,045 for a combined total of \$27,045.

POLE REPLACEMENT: In conjunction with the various system improvements this year, a total of 116 poles were installed and transferred.

SERVICE INSTALLATION: There were 66 new electric services installations and 20 meter replacements completed for a total of 86 meters installed during the year. The total number of meters in service at year end was 2,465.

SYSTEM UPGRADES: Upgrades to the distribution system included replacing or installing and framing poles, removal and installation of primary and secondary conductors and equipment and replacement of line transformers on the following streets: Westminster Rd., Belmore Rd., Ridgefield Rd., Trailerland, Birchmeadow Rd just beyond entrance to Birchmeadow Estates, Whittier Dr., Greenleaf Circle, Greenleaf Park, Shore Rd., North St. All streets with the exception of Shore Rd and North St were done in conjunction with the the continuing upgrade to convert to 13.8 voltage. Tree trimming was completed throughout all of the areas that have been upgraded to minimize problems caused by tree branches hitting or rubbing against power lines.

Months of planning and coordinating culminated during the summer of 1997 with the addition of a third circuit to our Mill St. Substation. The redesign completed by MLD's line crew provided us with more flexibility within our system and was another way of improving our reliability by enabling us to reduce certain outage times and in some cases, actually eliminate the need for outages.

SAFETY EDUCATION: Our Safety Program continued this year at both elementary schools. WD is committed to increasing electrical safety awareness to the children of our community. In June we held our first Safety Day at the Sweetsir School. Employees of MLD volunteered their time along with members of the Police and Fire Departments.

In retrospect, MLD views 1997 as a very productive year. We were able to carry out our goals as planned for system upgrades. The work we have been doing will help us to make sure that our distribution system is reliable now, and

into the future. In order to remain competitive it is necessary to increase efficiency as well as cutting costs. Cost savings don't just happen by accident. They require foresight, imagination and planning. At MLD we are doing our best to expand and update our services, while at the same time keeping costs down.

With deregulation just around the corner, we have been working throughout the year to ensure that the residents of Merrimac continue to receive the low-cost, high quality service that they have been accustomed to over the years. We are currently exploring our power supply options and hope to bring cost savings to our customers in the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Soucy
for the Board of Light Commissioners

Norman Sande	Term Expires 1998
Norman Denault	Term Expires 1999
David Vance	Term Expires 2000

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

The following is a report Of The Board of Sewer Commissioners for the calendar year 1997. The Merrimac Wastewater Treatment facility is an extended aeration oxidation ditch process designed to treat 450,000 gallons of raw sewage and 1,000 gallons of septage per day. In 1997 134,429,000 gallons of raw sewage and 10,000 gallons of septage were created. The average daily flow treated was 368,300 gallons of raw sewage and 106 gallons of septage. The facility ended 1997 operating at 82% capacity. The water treatment process generated 414 cubic yards of wet sludge that were recycled for agricultural reuse as approved by the Mass. DEP and NH DES.

The sanitary sewer system was completed on West Main Street from the Hogpenny to Trilarland. The Belmore Road line was installed and ready for house connections. Most of the work on River Road was done with a start up date after the first of 1998. Trilarland completed the majority of its project in 1997

Revenue FY97

Invoiced User Fees	353,069.53	(32,859.11 uncollected)
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Collected:

User Fees	335,527.86	
Liens	4,262.60	
Septage	1,030.00	
Total Collected		340,820.46

Expenditures:

O&M	314,035.76	
Interest Belt 1&2	1,687.50	
Total Expended		315,723.26

Given To the Town:	25,097.20
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Development Fund:

Balance end of FY96	38,023.91	
Collected FY 97	64,952.17	
Total		102,976.08

Expended:

Principal Belt 1 & 2	35,000.00
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Total	35,000.00
Balance End of 1997	67,976.08

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Arthur D. Evans	Richard L. Hebert	Richard J. Powers
14 Nichols St	14 Harriman Rd.	1 Willowdale Dr.
346-8428	346-8066	346-8191
Term Expires 1998	Term Expires 1999	Term Expires 2000

TOWN OF MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS

Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Group

June 30, 1997

(except for Proprietary Fund Type which is as of December 31, 1996)

Governmental Fund Types				Proprietary Fund Type	Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Group	
Assets				Electric Enterprise Fund	Trust & Agency	General Long-Term Obligations	Total (Memorandum Only)
General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,345,972	\$ 56,614	\$ -	\$ 816,804	\$ 412,243	\$ -	\$ 3,631,633
Other Investments	-	-	-	-	158,659	-	158,659
Receivables:							
Property Taxes	147,766	-	-	-	-	-	147,766
Tax Liens and Foreclosures	190,238	-	-	-	-	-	190,238
Motor Vehicle Excise	60,109	-	-	-	-	-	60,109
User Charges	93,755	-	-	89,837	-	-	183,592
Special Assessments	27,803	-	-	-	-	-	27,803
Less: Allowance For Abatements	(10,520)	-	-	(8,281)	-	-	(18,801)
Due From Other Governments	-	87,280	-	-	-	-	87,280
Other Assets	-	-	-	33,975	-	-	33,975
Inventory	-	-	-	15,002	-	-	15,002
Property, Plant and Equipment, Net	-	-	-	1,711,319	-	-	1,711,319
Amounts To Be Provided for Retirement of Bonds	-	-	-	-	-	8,064,890	8,064,890
Total Assets	\$ 2,855,123	\$ 143,894	\$ -	\$ 2,558,556	\$ 570,902	\$ 8,064,890	\$ 14,293,465
Liabilities and Fund Equity							
Warrants Payable	158,805	-	-	267,787	-	-	426,592
Other Accrued Liabilities	4,148	-	-	35,851	-	-	39,999
Notes Payable	-	-	75,000	-	-	-	75,000
Bonds Payable	-	-	-	-	-	8,064,890	8,064,890
Deferred Revenue	472,031	-	-	-	-	-	472,031
Other Liabilities	31,589	-	-	372,991	-	-	404,580
Total Liabilities	666,573	-	75,000	676,629	-	8,064,890	9,483,092
Fund Equity:							
Retained Earnings:							
Reserved	-	-	-	471,589	-	-	471,589
Unreserved	-	-	-	1,510,438	-	-	1,510,438
Fund Balances:							
Reserved For Encumbrances	405,181	-	-	-	-	-	405,181
Reserved For Other	683,239	-	-	-	-	-	683,239
Unreserved:							
Designated	376,240	-	-	-	570,902	-	947,142
Undesignated	723,890	143,894	(75,000)	-	-	-	792,784
Total Fund Equity	2,188,550	143,894	(75,000)	1,982,027	570,902	-	4,810,373
Total Liab & Fund Equity	2,855,123	143,894	-	2,658,656	570,902	8,064,890	14,293,465

See accompanying notes to general purpose financial statements.

TOWN OF MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS

Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Equity All Governmental Fund Types and Expendable Trust Funds

Year Ended June 30, 1997

	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary Fund Type	Total (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Expendable Trust	
Revenues:					
Property Taxes	\$ 4,408,859	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,408,859
Excise Taxes	427,657	-	-	-	427,657
Licenses and Permits	127,846	-	-	-	127,846
Fines	70,140	-	-	-	70,140
Departmental Charges for Services	1,509,124	1,600	-	-	1,510,724
Intergovernmental	999,340	180,720	-	-	1,180,060
Investment Income	87,031	-	-	10,085	97,116
Special Assessments	20,759	-	-	-	20,759
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	14,300	-	-	-	14,300
Other	34,276	60,961	-	53,312	148,549
Total Revenues	7,699,332	243,281	-	63,397	8,006,010
Expenditures:					
General Government	319,749	-	-	-	319,749
Public Safety	581,604	98,701	-	-	680,305
Education	3,130,271	-	-	-	3,130,271
Public Works	1,210,572	96,562	75,000	8,660	1,390,794
Human Services	60,742	5,012	-	-	65,754
Recreation and Culture	127,805	1,725	-	-	129,530
Debt Service	1,126,750	-	-	-	1,126,750
State and County Assessments	22,918	-	-	-	22,918
Employee Benefits	269,111	-	-	42,856	311,967
Insurance	84,631	-	-	-	84,631
Total Expenditures	6,934,153	202,000	75,000	51,516	7,262,669
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	765,179	41,281	(75,000)	11,881	743,341
Other Financing Sources (Uses):					
Operating Transfers In (Out)	(42,095)	(2,278)	7,373	50,000	13,000
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)	723,084	39,003	(67,627)	61,881	756,341
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	1,465,466	104,891	(7,373)	337,644	1,900,628
Fund Balance, End of Year	\$ 2,188,550	\$ 143,894	\$ (75,000)	\$ 399,525	\$ 2,656,969

See accompanying notes to general purpose financial statements.

TOWN OF MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS
Notes to General-Purpose Financial Statements

Year Ended June 30, 1997

The following is a statement of changes in long term debt for the year ended June 30, 1997:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>Interest Rates</u>	<u>Original Amount</u>	<u>Balance at 7-1-96</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Retirements</u>	<u>Balance at 6-30-97</u>
Sewer Construction Maturities 1996-2011	5.0%	\$ 1,035,700	\$ 552,000	\$ -	\$ 34,500	\$ 517,500
Sewer Construction Maturities 1996-2002	5.0%	391,300	136,955	-	19,565	117,390
Filter Bed Construction Maturities 1996-2011	6.4% to 7.25%	1,608,000	1,280,000	-	80,000	1,200,000
Sewer Construction Fully Matured	6.9%	100,000	20,000	-	20,000	-
Sewer Construction Fully Matured	6.65%	75,000	15,000	-	15,000	-
School Construction Maturities 1996-2014	5.05% to 6.75%	6,265,000	5,615,000	-	325,000	5,290,000
Sewer Construction Maturities 1997-2000	5.5% to 6.6%	97,500	75,000	-	20,000	55,000
Multi-Purpose Loan Maturities 1997-2014	4.5% to 7.5%	1,105,000	995,000	-	110,000	885,000
Totals		<u>\$ 10,842,500</u>	<u>\$ 8,688,955</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 624,065</u>	<u>\$ 8,064,890</u>

The annual debt service requirements of the Town's outstanding indebtedness at June 30, 1997, with interest rates from 5.0% to 7.5%, are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
1998.....	\$ 584,065	\$ 460,983	\$ 1,045,048
1999.....	584,065	425,912	1,009,977
2000.....	519,065	392,859	911,924
2001.....	504,065	363,711	867,776
2002.....	504,065	337,124	841,189
Thereafter.....	5,369,565	2,529,991	7,899,556
Total	<u><u>\$ 8,064,890</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 4,510,580</u></u>	<u><u>\$12,575,470</u></u>

At June 30, 1997, the Town has authorized and unissued debt of \$319,000.

TOWN OF MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS
Notes to General-Purpose Financial Statements

Year Ended June 30, 1997

8. Fund Balance Deficit

At June 30, 1997, the Town's capital project fund, which relates to a road project, has a deficit fund balance of \$75,000. This deficit resulted from amounts expended prior to the issuance of long-term debt to finance the project. In the interim, cash has been provided by the issuance of a short term note payable. The Town anticipates issuing long-term debt on this project during the next fiscal year.

9. Contingencies

Numerous lawsuits may be pending or threatened against the Town, which arose from the ordinary course of operations, including actions commenced and claims asserted against it for property damage and personal injury, breaches of contract, condemnation proceedings and other alleged violations of law. The Town's attorney estimates that potential claims against the Town, not covered by insurance, resulting from such litigation, would not materially affect the general-purpose financial statements.

The Town receives some financial assistance from numerous federal and state agencies in the form of grants and entitlements. Expenditures of funds under these programs require compliance with the grant agreements and may be subject to audit. Any disallowed expenditures resulting from such audits become a liability of the Town.

TOWN OF MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS

COMBINING BALANCE SHEET - SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

JUNE 30, 1997

<u>Assets</u>	Highway Funds	Receipts Reserved For Appropriation	State Grants	Revolving Funds	Totals
Cash and Short-Term Investments	\$ 3,899	\$ 17,649	\$ 27,975	\$ 7,091	\$ 56,614
Due From Other Governments	87,280	-	-	-	87,280

Total Assets	\$ 91,179	\$ 17,649	\$ 27,975	\$ 7,091	\$ 143,894
	=====				
<u>Liabilities and Fund Balances</u>					
Liabilities:					
Warrants Payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Total Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-

Fund Balances:					
Unreserved:					
Undesignated	91,179	17,649	27,975	7,091	143,894

Total Fund Balances	91,179	17,649	27,975	7,091	143,894

Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 91,179	\$ 17,649	\$ 27,975	\$ 7,091	\$ 143,894
	=====				

TOWN OF MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS

COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

JUNE 30, 1997

	Highway Funds	Receipts Reserved For Appropriation	State Grants	Revolving Funds	Totals
Revenues:					
Intergovernmental	\$ 98,600	\$ 6,416	\$ 75,704	\$ -	\$ 180,720
Departmental Charges For Services		1,600			1,600
Other	-	-	-	60,961	60,961
Total Revenues	98,600	8,016	75,704	60,961	243,281
Expenditures:					
Public Safety	-	-	40,508	58,193	98,701
Public Works	87,280	-	9,282	-	96,562
Human Services	-	-	5,012	-	5,012
Recreation and Culture	-	-	1,725	-	1,725
Total Expenditures	87,280	-	56,527	58,193	202,000
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditure:	11,320	8,016	19,177	2,768	41,281
Other Financing Sources (Uses):					
Operating Transfers In (Out)	-	(2,278)	-	-	(2,278)
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)	11,320	5,738	19,177	2,768	39,003
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	79,859	11,911	8,798	4,323	104,891
Fund Balance, End of Year	\$ 91,179	\$ 17,649	\$ 27,975	\$ 7,091	\$ 143,894

TOWN OF MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS

COMBINING BALANCE SHEET - FIDUCIARY FUNDS

JUNE 30, 1997

	Non-Expendable		Other Expendable		
	Trust	Stabilization	Trust		
<u>Assets</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Funds</u>		<u>Totals</u>
Cash and Short-Term Investments	\$ 12,718	\$ 275,762	\$ 123,763	\$	412,243
Other Investments	158,659	-	-		158,659

Total Assets	\$ 171,377	\$ 275,762	\$ 123,763	\$	570,902
	=====				
<u>Liabilities and Fund Balances</u>					
Liabilities:					
Other Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$	-

Total Liabilities	-	-	-		-

Fund Balances:					
Unreserved:					
Undesignated	171,377	275,762	123,763		570,902

Total Fund Balances	171,377	275,762	123,763		570,902

Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 171,377	\$ 275,762	\$ 123,763	\$	570,902
	=====				

TOWN OF MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS

COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS

JUNE 30, 1997

	Stabilization Fund	Other Expendable Trust Funds	Totals
Revenues:			
Investment Income	\$ 6,790	\$ 3,295	\$ 10,085
Other	-	53,312	53,312
	-----	-----	-----
Total Revenues	6,790	56,607	63,397
	-----	-----	-----
Expenditures:			
Public Works	-	8,660	8,660
Employee Benefits	-	42,856	42,856
	-----	-----	-----
Total Expenditures	-	51,516	51,516
	-----	-----	-----
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	6,790	5,091	11,881
Other Financing Sources (Uses):			
Operating Transfers In (Out)	50,000	-	50,000
	-----	-----	-----
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)	56,790	5,091	61,881
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	218,972	118,672	337,644
	-----	-----	-----
Fund Balance, End of Year	\$ 275,762	\$ 123,763	\$ 399,525
	=====	=====	=====

TOWN OF MERRIMAC
TRIAL BALANCE - 4th/Final
June 30, 1997

Date Printed:
4/27/98

FUND/ACCOUNT #	ACCOUNT TITLE	DEBIT	CREDIT
01-1020-000	PETTY CASH	530.00	
01-1040-000	CASH UNRESTRICTED CHECKING	2,186,637.13	
TAXES RECEIVABLE			
01-1210-097	PERSONAL PROPERTY	3,182.04	
01-1210-096	PERSONAL PROPERTY	419.02	
01-1210-095	PERSONAL PROPERTY	432.80	
01-1210-094	PERSONAL PROPERTY	425.16	
01-1210-093	PERSONAL PROPERTY	1,647.24	
01-1210-092	PERSONAL PROPERTY	643.44	
01-1210-091	PERSONAL PROPERTY	543.19	
01-1210-090	PERSONAL PROPERTY	169.50	
01-1220-097	REAL ESTATE	137,380.91	
01-1220-096	REAL ESTATE	1,207.91	
01-1220-095	REAL ESTATE	1,714.60	
01-1220-094	REAL ESTATE	0.00	
OVERLAY			
01-1230-097	ALLOW. FOR ABATE & EXEMPTIONS		10,520.38
01-1230-096	ALLOW. FOR ABATE & EXEMPTIONS		0.00
01-1230-095	ALLOW. FOR ABATE & EXEMPTIONS		0.00
01-1230-094	ALLOW. FOR ABATE & EXEMPTIONS		0.00
01-1230-093	ALLOW. FOR ABATE & EXEMPTIONS		0.00
01-1230-092	ALLOW. FOR ABATE & EXEMPTIONS		0.00
01-1230-091	ALLOW. FOR ABATE & EXEMPTIONS		0.00
01-1230-090	ALLOW. FOR ABATE & EXEMPTIONS		0.00
01-1240-000	TAX LIENS RECEIVABLE	147,816.14	
01-1260-097	MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	40,476.02	
01-1260-096	MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	5,940.55	
01-1260-095	MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	3,873.83	
01-1260-094	MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	3,379.51	
01-1260-093	MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	2,980.74	
01-1260-092	MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	3,458.84	
01-1270-097	BOAT EXCISE	0.00	
01-1280-096	FARM ANIMAL EXCISE	0.00	
01-1310-000	USER CHARGES A/R - WATER	45,246.92	
01-1311-000	USER CHARGES A/R - SEWER	34,643.49	
01-1130-097	UTILITY LIENS - LIGHT	1,092.40	
01-1130-096	UTILITY LIENS - LIGHT	0.00	
01-1330-097	UTILITY LIENS - WATER	3,628.80	
01-1330-096	UTILITY LIENS - WATER	87.10	
01-1330-095	UTILITY LIENS - WATER	198.62	
01-1330-091	UTILITY LIENS - WATER	842.36	
01-1331-097	UTILITY LIENS - SEWER	5,843.55	
01-1331-096	UTILITY LIENS - SEWER	0.00	
01-1331-091	UTILITY LIENS - SEWER	2,171.61	
01-1340-001	DEPARTMENTAL A/R - AMBULANCE	0.00	
01-1410-000	UNAPPORTIONED SPEC. ASSESS.	27,369.88	
01-1470-097	A/R SEWER APPORTIONMENT	432.32	
01-1470-096	A/R SEWER APPORTIONMENT	0.00	
01-1880-000	TAX FORECLOSURES	42,422.53	
MISCELLANEOUS			
01-2120-000	PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS PAYABLE		4,147.40
01-2520-000	ABAN. PROPERTY/UNCLAIMED ITEMS		0.00
01-2530-000	ESCROW		2,877.07
01-2530-002	ESCROW-PLANNING BOARD		28,712.00

TOWN OF MERRIMAC
TRIAL BALANCE - 4th/Final
June 30, 1997

Date Printed:
4/27/98

FUND/ACCOUNT #	ACCOUNT TITLE	DEBIT	CREDIT
DEFERRED REVENUE			
01-2610-000	REAL & PERSONAL PROPERTY		137,245.43
01-2622-000	TAX LIENS		147,816.14
01-2623-000	TAX FORECLOSURES		42,422.53
01-2630-000	MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE		60,109.49
01-2641-000	BOAT EXCISE		0.00
01-2642-000	FARM ANIMAL EXCISE		0.00
01-2651-000	USER CHARGES - WATER, SEWER		79,890.41
01-2653-000	UTILITY LIENS-WATER,SEWER,LIGHT		13,864.44
01-2654-000	DEPARTMENTAL - AMBULANCE		0.00
01-2660-000	SPECIAL ASSESSMENT-SEWER		27,802.20
01-2710-000	B. A. NOTE PAYABLE		0.00
FUND BALANCE			
01-3214-000	CONTINUED APPROPRIATIONS		405,180.80
01-3220-000	EXTREME & UNFORESEEN EXPENDITURES		0.00
01-3240-000	RESERVE FOR EXPENDITURES		431,240.00
01-3250-000	RESERVE FOR PETTY CASH		530.00
01-3250-001	RESERVE FOR APPROP-SEWER		50,019.10
01-3250-002	RESERVE FOR APPROP-WATER		205,133.62
01-3250-003	RESERVE FOR APPROP-CONS. COMM.		2,502.58
01-3250-004	RESERVE FOR APPROPR-LANDFILL		425,054.09
01-3590-000	UNRESTRICTED/UNDESIGNATED F.B.		588,770.47
01-3590-002	UNRESTR/UNDESIG WATER SURPLUS		43,000.00
01-3592-000	UNRESTR/UNDESIG APPROP. DEFICIT		0.00
BUDGETARY			
01-3810-000	ESTIMATED TAX LEVY	0.00	
01-3815-000	ESTIMATED OTHER REVENUE	0.00	
01-3820-000	EST. OTHER FINANCIAL SOURCES	0.00	
01-3830-000	APPROPRIATIONS		0.00
01-3860-000	OTHER AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES		0.00
01-3870-000	EST. OTHER FINANCIAL USES		0.00
01-3880-000	BUDGETARY FUND BALANCE	0.00	
01-3890-000	BUDGETARY CONTROL	0.00	
ACTUALS			
01-3910-000	ACTUAL REVENUE		0.00
01-3920-000	OTHER FINANCIAL SOURCES		0.00
01-3930-000	EXPENDITURES	0.00	
01-3950-000	PRIOR YEAR EXPENDITURES	0.00	
01-3970-000	OTHER FINANCIAL USES	0.00	
		<u>2,706,838.15</u>	<u>2,706,838.15</u>

SUBSIDIARY REVENUE CONTROL

01-4000	REVENUE CONTROL	7,260,534.51	
01-4110	PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES		62,175.31
01-4120	REAL ESTATE TAXES		4,209,221.10
01-4142	TAX LIENS		118,572.70
01-4150	MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE		423,645.47
01-4161	BOAT EXCISE		0.00
01-4162	FARM ANIMAL EXCISE		1,360.08
01-4171	INTEREST & PENALTIES-REAL & P.P.		17,028.56
01-4172	INTEREST & PENALTIES-EXCISE		2,650.83

TOWN OF MERRIMAC
TRIAL BALANCE - 4th/Final
June 30, 1997

Date Printed:
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FUND/ACCOUNT #	ACCOUNT TITLE	DEBIT	CREDIT
01-4173	TAX TITLE INTEREST		37,190.50
01-4174	TAX TITLE COSTS		1,002.89
01-4180	PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES		14,300.32
01-4220	SEWER BETTERMENTS		20,759.27
01-4270	OTHER CHARGES		0.00
01-4270-002	DEPARTMENTAL (AMBULANCE)		40,815.78
01-4211	WATER		550,541.58
01-4246	SEWER		337,857.86
01-4320-001	FEES		33,724.48
01-4320-002	FEES - TRAILER PARKS		30,456.00
01-4360	RENTALS		17,907.00
01-4410	LIQUOR LICENSE		0.00
01-4420-50	PERMITS		127,845.70
01-4613	STATE REIMBURSE-VETERANS		1,225.00
01-4614	STATE REIMBURSE-SURVIVING SPOUSE		175.00
01-4615	STATE REIMBURSE-BLIND PERSONS		350.00
01-4616-001	ABATEMENT TO THE ELDERLY		0.00
01-4630	SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION-State Aid		457,900.00
01-4671	STATE AID		539,690.00
01-4695	FINES-R.M.V. & COURT		65,197.50
01-4770	FINES-PARKING & DOG		4,942.50
01-4820	EARNINGS ON INVESTMENTS		87,031.30
01-4840	MISCELLANEOUS & PENSION		34,792.78
	BURIALS		22,175.00
		7,260,534.51	7,260,534.51

TOWN OF MERRIMAC
TRIAL BALANCE - 4th/Final
June 30, 1997

Date Printed:
4/27/98

FUND/ACCOUNT #	ACCOUNT TITLE	DEBIT	CREDIT
FUND # 13 HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS			
13-1040	CASH UNRESTRICTED CHECKING	3,898.76	0.00
13-3214	CHAPTER 90	0.00	3,898.76
	TOTAL	3,898.76	3,898.76
FUND # 29 SPECIAL REVENUE			
29-1040-000	CASH UNRESTRICTED CHECKING	52,714.92	
29-	TITLE V-BOH SEPTIC PROGRAM		12,866.60
29-3300-001	RECEIPTS-SALE OF CEMETARY LOTS		2,062.00
29-3300-004	RECEIPTS-STATE AID TO LIBRARIES		15,586.77
29-3520-002	DESIG.FOR STATE GRANTS-ART'S COUNCIL		8,154.23
29-3520-003	DESIG.FOR STATE GRANTS-COA ELDER AFFAIRS		1,181.86
29-3520-007	DESIG.FOR STATE GRANTS-CIVIL DEFENSE		766.17
29-3520-008	DESIG.FOR STATE GRANTS-D.A.R.	3,649.87	0.00
29-3520-009	DESIG.FOR STATE GRANTS-C.O.P.S.		205.04
20-3520-011	DESIG.FOR STATE GRANTS-S.A.F.	1,440.00	
29-3560-002	DESIG.FOR REVOLVING FUNDS-POLICE		202.00
29-3560-003	DESIG.FOR REVOLVING FUNDS-DAMAGE REST. POLICE		447.38
29-3560-006	DESIG.FOR REVOLVING FUNDS-DAMAGE RESTITUTION.		6,441.72
29-4699-001	DESIG.FOR STATE GRANTS-POLL HOURS		106.80
29-4690-001	DESIG.FOR STATE GRANTS-LIBRARY INCENTIVE		0.00
29-4690-002	DESIG.FOR STATE GRANTS-MUNICIPAL EQUALIZATION		165.72
29-	DESIG.FOR STATE GRANTS-MA EMERGENCY MGMT-OCT 9		9,618.50
	TOTAL	57,804.79	57,804.79
FUND # 30 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS			
30-1040	CASH UNRESTRICTED CHECKING	0.00	
30-3190	SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT		0.00
30-3190-002	FUND BAL CAP. PROJECT		
30-3190-003	BELMORE ROAD SEWER BORROWING	75,000.00	
30-2710	NOTES PAYABLE		75,000.00
	FEMA Reimb-Rainstorm-10/20-21/96		0.00
	TOTAL	75,000.00	75,000.00
FUND #62 ENTERPRISE - LIGHT OPERATIONS			
62-1040	CASH UNRESTRICTED CHECKING	100,136.86	
62-1050	CASH UNRESTRICTED SAVINGS	596,271.68	
62-1310	USER CHARGES RECEIVABLE	119,164.97	
62-2651	DEFERRED REVENUE-USER CHARGES		119,164.97
62-3289	F/B RESERVE FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES		596,271.68
62-3190-001	APPROPRIATIONS GENERAL		100,136.86
	TOTAL	815,573.51	815,573.51

TOWN OF MERRIMAC
TRIAL BALANCE - 4th/Final
June 30, 1997

Date Printed:
4/27/98

FUND/ACCOUNT #	ACCOUNT TITLE	DEBIT	CREDIT
FUND # 82	NON-EXPENDABLE TRUST		
82-1050	CASH UNRESTRICTED SAVINGS	18,154.71	
82-1190	INVESTMENTS	153,221.92	
	UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE		
82-3400-007	DESIGNATED-PERPETUAL CARE		171,376.63
	TOTAL	171,376.63	171,376.63
FUND # 84	EXPENDABLE TRUST		
84-1040	CASH UNRESTRICTED CHECKING	358,424.53	
84-1050	CASH UNRESTRICTED SAVINGS	41,100.00	
	UNRESTRICT. F/BALANCE DESIGNATED:		
84-3400-001	KIMBALL PARK		9,787.50
84-3400-002	ALBERT WADLEIGH		10,649.97
84-3400-003	ARMSTRONG-MCINNIS		6,314.43
84-3400-004	SWEETSIR		5,946.74
84-3400-005	THOMAS HOYT		31,103.38
84-3400-008	STABILIZATION FUND		275,761.84
84-3400-009-01	LIBRARY BOOKS-PRINCIPAL		6,932.76
84-3400-009-02	LIBRARY TRUST-BOOKS		515.74
84-3400-010	CEMETARY PERP. CARE		17,872.14
84-3400-011	KIMBALL PARK CARE		(35.00)
84-3400-012	GROUP INSURANCE		32,119.93
84-3400-013	HARRY ROBINSON LOT		2,555.10
	TOTAL	399,524.53	399,524.53

TOWN OF MERRIMAC
TRIAL BALANCE - 4th/Final
June 30, 1997

Date Printed:
4/27/98

FUND/ACCOUNT #	ACCOUNT TITLE	DEBIT	CREDIT
FUND # 97	LONG TERM DEBT		
97-1997-000	AMOUNT TO BE PROVIDED FOR PAYMENTS OF BONDS	8,064,890.52	
	BONDS OUTSIDE DEBT LIMIT:		
97-2940-004	SEWER # 1 - 10/28/91		517,500.52
97-2940-005	SEWER # 2 - 7/1/82		117,390.00
97-2940-011	SAND FILTER # 1 - 10/1/91		1,200,000.00
97-2940-013	BELT PRESS # 1 - 8/1/91		0.00
97-2940-014	BELT PRESS # 2 - 2/1/92		0.00
97-2940-015	SCHOOL BUILDING - 5/15/94		5,290,000.00
97-2940-016	SEWER MULTI-PURPOSE - 6/30/95		55,000.00
97-2940-017	SCHOOL/DEPT EQUIPMENT - 8/15/95		885,000.00
97-3760-000	BOND AUTHORIZED (MEMO)	0.00	
97-3770-000	BONDS AUTH., BUT UNISSUED (MEMO)		0.00
	TOTAL	8,064,890.52	8,064,890.52

CASH SUMMARY	ALL FUNDS	
01-1020-000	PETTY CASH	530.00
01-1040-000	CASH-GENERAL FUND	2,186,637.13
13-1040-000	CASH-HIGHWAY FUND	3,898.76
29-1040-000	CASH-SPECIAL REVENUE	52,714.92
30-1040-000	CASH-CAPITAL IMPROV.	0.00
62-1040-000	CASH-LIGHT DEPARTMENT	100,136.86
62-1050-000	CASH-LIGHT DEPRECIATION	596,271.68
82-1050/1190-00	CASH-PERPETUAL CARE	171,376.63
84-1040-000	CASH-TRUST FUNDS	358,424.53
84-1050-000	CASH-TRUST FUNDS	41,100.00
	TOTAL	3,511,090.51

Fiscal 1998
Annual Report of the Board of Assessors

The Board of Assessors respectfully submits the following report for Fiscal Year 1998 (July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998)

This past year the Board of Assessors hired Patriot Properties to do a complete re-certification for Fiscal 1998. Unlike past years, when Patriot Properties did just commercial and Industrial properties, we had them do the Residential properties also. The total cost was \$18,300 as the contract called for and the job was done in early October 1997 for the Department of Revenue review. We got approval in November 1997 and in December 1997 the Board presented a Fiscal 1998 Tax Recap sheet and other related documents to the Bureau of Local Accounts at the Department of Revenue. The tax rate of \$15.22 was approved on December 18, 1997. The tax bills were mailed on time.

The tax rate of \$15.22 is a reduction of \$1.23 per thousand. This was accomplished in two ways. First, the recertification process increased the total value of the town, which reduced the tax rate by \$1.16 per thousand, second and most important was the action of the Town Meeting. Even if there had been no recertification the actions of Town Meeting reduced the tax rate by 7 cents.

This past year we had \$208,376.00 in tax growth due to construction. This was quite an increase over the past several years. The Town was also under the levy limit by \$299,212.00 which is an indication to the Department of Revenue that Merrimac is in very good shape.

If you have any question, please call the Assessor's office. If the Clerk cannot answer your questions someone will get back to you.

Respectfully Submitted:

The Board of Assessors

Martha A. Schena, MAA
George W. Mutti, MAA
Edward R. Davis, MAA

Term Expires 1998
Term Expires 1999
Term Expires 2000

Tax Rate Recapitulation Fiscal 1998

1.	Tax Rate Summary	
A.	Total Amount to be raised	\$8,528,098.11
B.	Total Estimated Receipts & Revenue	\$4,071,432.00
C.	Net amount to be raised by taxation	\$4,456,666.11
D.	Classified Tax Levies	
	Residential	92.7211
	Open space	0
	Commercial	4.0813
	Industrial	1.8275
	Personal Prop.	<u>1.3701</u>
		100.0000%

2.	Amount to Raise	
A.	Appropriations	\$8,424,616.00
B.	Tax Title	20,000.00
C.	Cherry Sheet offsets	6,000.00
D.	State & Cherry Sheet Charges	27,610.00
E.	Overlay	49,769.11
Total Amount to be raised		\$8,528,098.11

3.	Estimated Receipts and other Revenue	
A.	Estimated Receipts – State	\$1,070,266.00
B.	Estimated Receipts – Local	\$1,993,546.00
C.	Revenue Appropriated	\$894,620.00
D.	Other Revenues to Reduce Tax Rate	\$113,000.00
Total		\$4,071,432.00

Number of Accounts taxable - Real Estate

Commercial	85
Condominiums	113

Total
\$4,071,432.00

Number of Accounts taxable - Real Estate

Commercial	85
Condominiums	113
Industrial	21
Residential - Single	1394
Residential - Two	135
Residential - Three	9
Residential - Four	5
Residential/Commercial	4
Residential - Land	293
Trailer Parks	2
Personal Property	133

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MERRIMAC PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

The Commission enjoyed a successful year. The new playing field facility Carriage Town Park on Emery Street was opened for use. This area serves both the youth soccer and baseball organizations. With the additional numbers of participants in both The Merrimac Soccer Club and the Merrimac Athletic Organization this added field space will be a much needed and welcome addition. Thanks goes out to the taxpayers of Merrimac, and the number of volunteers who helped to make this dream a reality. Thank you also to all of the volunteers who give hundreds of hours of their time to organize, officiate, and coach in these programs.

The Commission is currently overseeing a project to resurface the soccer fields at Town Forest Field. These fields have seen a lot of wear and tear over the past twenty years and are in need of renovation. Work began in the fall of 1997 and will continue in the spring of 1998.

Thanks to our maintenance staff for a job well done. As our facilities have grown they have done a good job providing the town with well maintained facilities. The staff has been a crucial element of our goal to expand and upgrade our facilities. We extend our thanks and appreciation to the other town departments who have provided us with assistance at various times throughout the year. Your help is important to our programs and helps to defer costs to the town. A special thank you is extended to the School Committee, Ms. Autiello and, the staff at the Donaghue School. Once again, we housed our summer supervised play program there for six weeks. The use of this wonderful building is very important to the continued success of our program. This past year registrations extended to over two hundred children. Thank you for your help and hospitality !

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bickford

James Hume

David Riley

Michael Stevens

Thomas Graziano

Term Expires 1998

Term Expires 1999

Term Expires 2000

Term Expires 2001

Term Expires 2002

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

We meet on a bimonthly basis, usually the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in the Selectman's meeting room. We can be reached at 346-4066.

We have applied and received a grant/loan from the Water Pollution Abatement Trust Fund. To develop and implement a betterment program for homeowners with failed septic systems. For more information about this program you can contact Paula at 346-4066.

According to Title V Regulations we must permit all Septage Haulers/Pumpers and they must provide the Board with records of every septic system pumped in Merrimac. The Board must review, maintain and inspect (if necessary) all pumping reports that are received.

According to Title V Regulations all home owners with septic systems must have a passed Title V Septic System Inspection Report before selling their homes. The Board of Health must review, maintain reports and take any action necessary. The Board of Health has received 30 Septic System Inspection Reports this year.

The Board of Health has witnessed the installation of 28 new septic systems for new construction and 16 upgrades to existing septic systems. The Board of Health has flow- tested 5 new water wells and has Indian Head Park lake water tested 3 times during the summer months.

Eileen Stepanian (Town Nurse) continues her programs of home visits and blood pressure clinics at the Senior Center.

Joseph Carey Jr. is the Food Service Inspector and handles all complaints related to the food industries. He inspects and permits 24 food establishments.

Bill Arnold assists the Board with technical issues regarding Title V; he is also a licensed soil evaluator for the Town.

Respectfully submitted, Paula Hamel, Laura Weaver, John Muese
Merrimac Board of Health.

Members:

Paula Hamel	Term Expires 1998
John Muese	Term Expires 1998
Laura Weaver	Term Express 2000

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MERRIMAC PLANNING BOARD

The updating and modernizing of the zoning by-laws and zoning map has been the primary focus of the board during the past year. Two sub-committees were formed to investigate ways of accomplishing these goals. The bylaw sub-committee has been primarily concerned with the tightening up of restrictions in such areas as signage and use tables. Also the area of adult entertainment had not been addressed in previous rules and regulations, surrounding towns that had not addressed this issue have found this to be a major problem.

The zoning map subcommittee has focused their attention on the area of descriptions and graphic details, which on the present map are not clear and concise. They have striven to make these two components more compatible. Both sub-committees will have changes ready for voters at the annual town meeting in the spring.

The past year saw the board accept, with regret, the resignation of long time member Joseph Carter. Mr. Carter had to relocate, for health reasons, to another part of the country. The vacant seat has been ably filled by the appointment of Anne Gardner.

The board also saw the appointment of a new secretary Town Clerk Pat True, has held the post since October. The board continues to hold regular meetings on the first and third Mondays of each month and special meetings as necessary.

Respectfully submitted

Arthur O'Keefe
Chairman

Anne Gardner	1998
W. Earl Baumgardner	1999
Arthur Evans	2000
Robert Sinibaidi	2001
Arthur O'Keefe	2002

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

As Town Clerk of the Town of Merrimac, I hereby submit my annual report for the year 1997.

BIRTHS

Number of births recorded	74
Males	36
Females	38
Father, native born	68
Mother, native born	68
Father and Mother both native born	65
Father and Mother both foreign born	3
Mixed parentage	4

MARRIAGES

Number of marriages recorded	42
First marriage of groom	27
First marriage of bride	29
Groom, native born	37
Bride, native born	41
Average age of groom	32yrs. 4 ms.
Average age of bride	30 yrs. 3 ms.

DEATHS

Number of deaths recorded	33
Males	20
Females	13
Under five years	0
Males, native born	18
Females, native born	12
Parents, native born	20
Parents, foreign born	7
Mixed parentage	6
Average age	70 yrs. 5ms.
Oldest person	104

LICENSES

Total dog licenses	508
Male	252
Female	26
Spayed Female	230
Kennel licenses	0
Sporting licenses	189
Minor's sporting licenses	5

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia E. True
Town Clerk

Actions Taken at Special Town Meeting
Held at Frederick N. Sweetsir School on May 5, 1997

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$2000.00 to purchase a computer for the Finance Director; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$2,000.00

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$2,560.00 for Finance Director Salary; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$2,560.00

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$750.00 to pay for Treasurers Bank Charges; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$750.00

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$1,000.00 for Board of Health Well Testing; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$1,000.00

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$3,000.00 to pay F.I.C.A. Town's share; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$3,000.00

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$500.00 for Town Counsel Expense; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$500.00

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$720.00 for Library Book FEMA Award Match; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$720.00

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$1,000.00 to pay for Municipal Building Gas Heat; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$1,000.00

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$1,000.00 to pay for Oil Heat in Municipal Building; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$1,000.00

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$1,000.00 to pay for Oil heat for Town Hall; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$1,000.00

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$5,500.00 to pay for Lights in Town Buildings; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$5,500.00

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$100.00 to pay Treasurer's salary; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$100.00

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$11,000.00 for Snow and Washout Emergency; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$11,000.00

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$100.00 to pay Council On Aging Janitor salary; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$100.00

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$50.00 to pay for Council On Aging Part Time Driver; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$50.00

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$200.00 for Council On Aging expenses; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$200.00

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$4,000.00 to pay for Veteran's Assistance; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$4,000.00

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$35,000.00 to pay for Utilities for the Sewer Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$35,000.00

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elective officers of the Town as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108 as amended: Moderator, Town Clerk, Three Selectmen, Three Assessors, Treasurer, Tree Warden, Three Commissioners of Municipal Light, Three Water Commissioners, Three Sewer Commissioners, and raise, appropriate or transfer sums of money therefore and to determine sums of money to be raised, or transferred to defray the necessary and usual charges and expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 1997 and make appropriations for the same, said sums of money so raised, appropriated or transferred to be expended for specific purposes to be voted; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$6,971,313.00

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from the Electric Light Operating Balance, said money to be used by the Assessors with the estimated receipts to fix the tax rate for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1997; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$13,000.00

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from the sale of cemetery lots, such sum or part thereof, to be expended under the direction of the cemetery trustees for the "Care, Improvement, and Embellishment, of said cemeteries, according to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 114, Section 14 and Section 25: or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$10,000.00

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$100,000.00 to be used for the operation and maintenance of the Sanitary Landfill for Fiscal Year 1998; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$100,000.00

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$21,600.00 to pay engineering services for supervision and inspection of the sanitary landfill for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1997; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$21,600.00

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$40,000.00 to pay for costs relative to closure of the Sanitary Landfill; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$40,000.00

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$5000.00 for the reserve fund for appropriation for revaluation; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$5,000.00

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$6000.00 to be expended by the Board of Assessors to perform duties and incur expenses relating to any equalization or revaluation of the Town; to authorize the Board of Assessors to hire themselves at the rate of \$10.00 per hour and to hire such necessary

assistance as the Board of Assessors may deem necessary or convenient; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$6,000.00

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money in the amount of \$18,300.00 from the Reserve Fund for Appropriation for Revaluation for Fiscal 1998 Re-certification; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$18,300

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to use a sum of money in the amount of \$175,000.00 from "FREE CASH" in the treasury toward the reduction of the tax rate for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1998; or take any other action relative thereto.

Amended and Passed \$100,000.00

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by deleting Section 1.1 MEMBERSHIP OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE and Section 1.2 QUORUMS, VOTES AND GOVERNANCE in their entirety and replacing them with the following:

Section 1.1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

- A. The Regional District School Committee shall consist of twelve members, four from each member town, who shall be elected by the voters of that town; each member so elected shall serve a three year term.
- B. Any vacancy occurring on the Regional District School Committee for any cause shall be filled by the local Board of Selectmen and the remaining School Committee members from the town where the vacancy occurs. Such replacement shall serve until the next annual town election.
- C. At the first scheduled meeting of the Regional District School Committee after the annual election of all member towns, the Regional District School Committee shall organize in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 16A, known as "Regional School Committee Organization". In addition, the Regional District School Committee shall fix the time and place for its regular meetings for the new term, provide for the calling of special meetings upon notice to all its members, and appoint appropriate sub-committees and other officers.

Section 1-2, QUORUMS, VOTES AND GOVERNANCE

A. A quorum to conduct business shall consist of nine members, with no less than three from each of the member towns.

B. On all issues requiring a vote of the Regional District School Committee, each member's vote will be weighted according to the respective town's population based on that town's most recent federal census figures.

C. Any action voted by the Regional District School Committee which directly and specifically affects the elementary schools (s) in only one town requires that three of the four members of the Regional District School Committee from the town in which the affected elementary school is located vote in support of that action. In order, however, for a school to be closed in any member town where there is more than one elementary school, all four committee members from the affected town are required to vote in favor of the proposed closure after a public hearing is held in the affected town.

Passed

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional District Agreement by deleting Section IV in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

Section IV. TRANSPORTATION

The Regional District School Committee shall set District transportation policy.

Passed

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by:

- (1) Changing "capital costs" to "debt service" everywhere in the agreement.
- (2) Modifying Section VI. Section B first sentence by changing the words "operating and amortization costs" to "operating costs" and debt service".
- (3) Deleting Section V-1. DEFINITIONS in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

Section V-1, DEFINITIONS

The total budget for construction and operation of the District's Schools including payments of principal and interest on bonds and other evidence of indebtedness issued by the District shall be apportioned to the member towns subject to the following definitions:

A. Budget

As defined by this document, the budget is the amount of dollars voted by the Regional District School Committee to operate the District Schools. The total budget shall be comprised of two parts: operating costs and debt service, each as herein defined.

- 1. DEBT SERVICE includes all costs that are used for payment of principal and interest on bonds or other obligations issued by the District except revenue anticipation notes.
- 2. OPERATING COSTS include all costs not included in Debt Service as defined in 1, but includes interest and principal on revenue anticipation notes.

B. Per pupil Operating Cost

The Per Pupil Operating Cost is calculated as follows:

Operating Costs

- Less Chapter 71:16D Regional School Aid
- Less Chapter 70 Regular School Aid
- Less Chapter 71:16C Regular Transportation School Aid
- Less Chapter 71 B SPED Transportation School Aid
- Less Interest Income
- Less Revolving Accounts
- Less any other state aid received but not including one-time grants

divided by total school population as determined by the prior years October 1 school census = per pupil operating cost.

(4) Deleting Section V-2, METHOD OF ASSESSING COSTS OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, Subsections A and B in their entirety, and replacing them with the following:

A. All operating costs shall be assessed to the three towns on the basis of each town's prior years October 1 school census times the per pupil operating cost as defined above.

B. For District owned schools only, Debt Service, less Chapter 645 SBAB aid, shall be assessed to the three towns on the basis of each town's prior years October 1 school census.

Funding for new elementary school buildings or additions to existing buildings of an elementary school shall remain the responsibility of the town in which the elementary school is located.

Amended and Passed as follows:

The Town voted to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by:

- (1) Changing "capital costs" to "debt service" everywhere in the agreement.*
- (2) Modifying Section VI. Section B first sentence by changing the words "operating and amortization costs" to "operating costs" and debt service".*
- (3) Deleting Section V-1. DEFINITIONS in its entirety and replacing it with the following:*

Section V-1, DEFINITIONS

The total budget for construction and operation of the District's Schools including payments of principal and interest on bonds and other evidence of indebtedness issued by the District shall be apportioned to the member towns subject to the following definitions:

A. Budget

As defined by this document, the budget is the amount of dollars voted by the Regional District School Committee to operate the District Schools. The total budget shall be comprised of two parts: operating costs and debt service, each as herein defined.

- 1. DEBT SERVICE includes all costs that are used for payment of principal and interest on bonds or other obligations issued by the District except revenue anticipation notes.*
- 2. OPERATING COSTS include all costs not included in Debt Service as*

defined in 1, but includes interest and principal on revenue anticipation notes.

B. Per pupil Operating Cost

The Per Pupil Operating Cost is calculated as follows:

Operating Costs

Less Chapter 71:16D Regional School Aid

Less Chapter 70 Regular School Aid

Less Chapter 71:16C Regular Transportation School Aid

Less Chapter 71 B SPED Transportation School Aid

Less Interest Income

Less Revolving Accounts

Less any other state aid received but not including one-time grants

divided by total school population as determined by the prior years October 1 school census = per pupil operating cost.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by:

(1) Deleting Section VIII-1. WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBER TOWNS FROM THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, Subsection A, first sentence and replacing it with the following:

Any town withdrawing from the District must first pay all its share of total debt and current operating expenses and must have the approval of all towns in the District.

(2) Deleting Section VIII-2. WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBER TOWNS FROM THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL< Subsection C in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

C. The member town(s) shall continue to be liable for all operating costs and debt service that were outstanding at the time of such withdrawal to the same extent and in the same manner as though the town(s) had not withdrawn grades PK - 6 from the District, until such obligations have been fulfilled.

Passed

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by deleting the first two sentences of Section X. BUDGET, Subsection A.2., and replacing them with the following:

Said proposed budget shall contain a notice stating when and where a public hearing will be held. The public hearing shall be held in any District school building.

Passed

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional District Agreement by deleting Section X. BUDGET, Subsection A.6, Paragraph 1 in its entirety, and replacing it with the following:

6. To request a budget for operating costs that exceeds the prior years budget for operating costs, and also requires an increase to the collective total assessments for operating costs to all three towns, the Regional District School Committee shall submit a supplemental budget for the annual town meeting.

Tabled

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by deleting the first sentence from Section X. BUDGET, Subsection 6. Paragraph 2, which reads:

"The supplemental budget shall not be acted upon until final cherry sheets are received."

Passed

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by:

- (1) Modifying the wording in Section X. BUDGET, Subsection A.5 as follows:
- Changing the words "approve a budget" to "approve an operating budget"
 - Changing the words "prior years budget" to "prior years operating budget"
 - Changing the words "increase in the budget" to "increase in the operating budget"
 - Changing the words "collective total assessments" to "collective total assessments for the operating budget"

- (2) Adding the following sentence to the end of the second paragraph of Section X. BUDGET, Subsection A.6.

If additional financial breakdown is provided in the Supplemental Budget by the Regional District School Committee, it shall be presented with the same breakdown for the annual town meeting in all three member towns.

Tabled

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by adding to Section X. BUDGET, Subsection X.A.9. with the following wording:

9. If a member town fails to hold a meeting within forty-five (45) days from the date on which an amended assessment was adopted by the Regional District School Committee, the member town shall be deemed to have voted to appropriate the amounts reapportioned and re-certified to it.

The forty-five (45) day period shall begin no sooner than May 30.

Passed

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by deleting Section V-3, STABILIZATION ACCOUNT in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

Section V-3, RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADDITIONS, MAJOR REPLACEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE OF SECONDARY AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- A. The Regional District School Committee shall maintain a stabilization fund through an annual assessment request from the member towns and/or by other funds. Said account may be expended by a two-thirds vote of the Regional District School Committee only for funding additions or major replacements of items allowed for ten (10) year bonding for the Regional District Secondary Schools. No funds shall be used to make payments on principal or interest on bonds issued by the District.

The stabilization fund total annual assessment request from the member towns shall be no more than one (1.0) percent of the operating budget. The target figure for the stabilization fund shall be two and one-half (2.5) percent of the operating budget.

The Regional District School Committee's annual stabilization assessment request from member towns shall be a separate assessment requiring approval by a majority vote in all member towns of the voters present and voting on the assessment at either the annual town meeting or at a special town meeting.

B. The member towns shall be responsible for authorizing and for funding additions, major replacements or repair of items allowed for ten (10) year bonding for their respective Elementary Schools.

C. Those items not allowed for ten (10) year bonding for both the elementary and secondary schools shall be considered maintenance and shall be the responsibility of the Regional School District.

Amended and Passed as follows:

The Town will voted to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by deleting Section V-3, STABILIZATION ACCOUNT in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

Section V-3, RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADDITIONS, MAJOR REPLACEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE OF SECONDARY AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

A. *The Regional District School Committee shall maintain a stabilization fund through an annual assessment request from the member towns and/or by other funds. Said account may be expended by a two-thirds vote of the Regional District School Committee only for funding additions or major replacements of items allowed for ten (10) year bonding for the Regional District Secondary Schools. No funds shall be used to make payments on principal or interest on bonds issued by the District.*

The stabilization fund total annual assessment request from the member towns shall be no more than one (1.0) percent of the operating budget. The target figure for the stabilization fund shall be two and one-half (2.5) percent of the operating budget.

The Regional District School Committee's annual stabilization assessment request from member towns shall be a separate assessment requiring approval by a majority vote in all member towns of the voters present and voting on the assessment at either the annual town meeting or at a special town meeting.

B. *Each member town shall be responsible for payment of costs associated with remodeling or making extraordinary repairs to the elementary school building located in that member town so long as they meet the requirements for ten (10) year bonding.*

C. The costs of ongoing maintenance for those items not included in paragraph V-3 B for the elementary schools and all costs for the secondary schools shall be borne by the Regional School District.

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by deleting the first paragraph of Section III LOCATION OF SCHOOLS Subsection C in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

C. Each member town shall retain ownership of all elementary school buildings and related grounds, including any new elementary school buildings constructed in the future. Each member town shall lease each elementary school building and related grounds to the Pentucket Regional School District for the sum of one dollar. Each lease shall be for a term not greater than the term permitted by either general or special State law. The initial term of each lease shall commence on the date that the Regional District School Committee assumes jurisdiction over the pupils in grades K-12 or as otherwise provided in such lease. Each lease may contain provisions for an extension of the lease term at the option of the Regional District School Committee. Responsibilities for maintenance of elementary school buildings shall be uniform across all District elementary school leases. A lease shall not prevent the use of the elementary school buildings or premises by the respective owner towns. If permitted by either general or special State law, a lease may provide that it shall terminate and the leased property shall revert to the member town if the town should no longer be a member of the Pentucket Regional School District or if the Regional District School Committee should determine that the land, with the building and other improvements thereon, is no longer needed for the the educational program of the District. Each lease may include such other terms as may be agreed upon by the Board of Selectmen of a member town and the Regional District School Committee. A lease shall be executed by the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the member town and the Regional District School Committee on behalf of the District.

Amended and Passed as follows:

The town voted to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by deleting the first paragraph of Section III LOCATION OF SCHOOLS Subsection C in its entirety and replacing it with the following text subject to the approval of Special Legislation which will enable each member town to retain ownership of new elementary schools constructed in that town and paid for by that town and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to seek such legislation.

C. Each member town shall retain ownership of all elementary school buildings and related grounds, including any new elementary school buildings

constructed in the future. Each member town shall lease each elementary school building and related grounds to the Pentucket Regional School District for the sum of one dollar. Each lease shall be for a term not greater than the term permitted by either general or special State law. The initial term of each lease shall commence on the date that the Regional District School Committee assumes jurisdiction over the pupils in grades K-12 or as otherwise provided in such lease. Each lease may contain provisions for an extension of the lease term at the option of the Regional District School Committee. Responsibilities for maintenance of elementary school buildings shall be uniform across all District elementary school leases. A lease shall not prevent the use of the elementary school buildings or premises by the respective owner towns. If permitted by either general or special State law, a lease may provide that it shall terminate and the leased property shall revert to the member town if the town should no longer be a member of the Pentucket Regional School District or if the Regional District School Committee should determine that the land, with the building and other improvements thereon, is no longer needed for the educational program of the District. Each lease may include such other terms as may be agreed upon by the Board of Selectmen of a member town and the Regional District School Committee. A lease shall be executed by the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the member town and the Regional District School Committee on behalf of the District.

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement as previously voted by deleting the second paragraph of Section V-2. **METHOD OF ASSESSING COSTS OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT** Subsection B in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

Debt Service, incurred by the District for an elementary school building of a member town, less applicable Chapter 645 SBAB aid, shall be assessed to the member town in which the elementary school is located.

Amended and passed as follows:

*The town voted to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by deleting the second paragraph of Section V-2 **METHOD OF ASSESSING COSTS OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT** Subsection B in its entirety and replacing it with the following text subject to the approval of Special Legislation which will enable each member town to retain ownership of new elementary schools constructed in that town and paid for by that town and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to seek such legislation.*

Debt Service, incurred by the District for an elementary school building of a member town, less applicable Chapter 645 SBAB aid, shall be assessed to the member town in which the elementary school is located.

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by deleting Section XII. INCURRING OF DEBT in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

Section XII. INCURRING OF DEBT

The Regional District School Committee shall have authority to develop plans for District schools. According to Chapter 71, S.16.d. the Regional District School Committee shall not incur any debt for the school until the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date said debt is authorized by the Regional District School Committee. Prior to the expiration of said period each member town will be notified of the intent to incur debt. Each member town which would bear a financial responsibility for the debt through the assessment of all or a portion of the principal and interest on such debt shall hold a town meeting for the purpose of expressing approval or disapproval of the amount of debt authorized by the Regional District School Committee by a majority of voters present. and voting on the question. If the debt is disapproved by any member town, the debt shall not be incurred, and the Regional District School Committee shall then prepare an alternative proposal and a new or revised authorization to incur debt. The Regional School District shall incur debt on behalf of a member town only when SBAB reimbursement is sought. The only exception to the restrictions in this paragraph shall be the incurring of debt in anticipation of revenues.

Amended and passed as follows:

The Regional District School Committee shall have authority to develop plans for District schools. According to Chapter 71, S.16.d. the Regional District School Committee shall not incur any debt for the school until the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date said debt is authorized by the Regional District School Committee. Prior to the expiration of said period each member town will be notified of the intent to incur debt. Each member town which would bear a financial responsibility for the debt through the assessment of all or a portion of the principal and interest on such debt shall hold a town meeting for the purpose of expressing approval or disapproval of the amount of debt authorized by the Regional District School Committee by a majority of voters present. and voting on the question. If the debt is disapproved by any member town, the debt shall not be incurred, and the Regional District School Committee shall then prepare an alternative proposal and a new or revised authorization to incur

debt. The only exception to the restrictions in this paragraph shall be the incurring of debt in anticipation of revenues.

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to attach a side letter of agreement to the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement as follows:

Side Letter of Agreement Governing Effectivity of Regional Agreement Modifications Voted at 1997 Annual Town Meetings of the Member Towns

Date: July 1, 1997

The effective date of Regional Agreement modifications approved by all Pentucket Regional School District member towns at their 1997 annual town meetings shall be July 1, 1997 with the stipulation that the 1998 Fiscal Year budget and assessment procedures shall be in accordance with the Regional Agreement that existed before the 1997 member town's annual town meetings.

Passed

ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Agreement by adding a Subsection E. to Section 11. TYPE OF SCHOOL with the following wording:

E. Any action voted by the Regional District School Committee which affects the grade configuration of the elementary and secondary schools of the District shall require approval by three of the four members of the Regional District School Committee of each member town.

Passed

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the amount of \$87,083.00 to fund a component of the district technology plan. This money will be used to fund cabling at the elementary level and computers at the secondary level. This article requires favorable action from all three towns; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$87,083.00

ARTICLE 27. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of FY96 Water Surplus Funds in the amount of \$43,000 to be expended by the Water Department for the purpose of upgrading the distribution system or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$43,000.00

ARTICLE 28. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$750,000.00 for the purpose of financing the capping and closure of the Town Landfill and: to fund this appropriation to appropriate the sum of \$350,000.00 out of Landfill Reserve for Appropriation Account and to authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen to borrow up to \$400,000.00 and to issue bonds and notes therefore under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 8; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed as written

ARTICLE 29. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$25,000.00 to repair the clock tower and gables on Town Hall Building; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$25,000.00

ARTICLE 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$2000.00 to purchase a computer for the Finance Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

Tabled

ARTICLE 31. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$2,250.00 to purchase apparatus for the Sealer of Weights and Measures; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$2,250.00

ARTICLE 32. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$23,000.00 to purchase a tractor/grass cutter for the Highway Department replacing a 1948 tractor; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$23,000.00

ARTICLE 33. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$8000.00 to purchase a Hottop Roller & Trailer for the Highway Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$8,000.00

ARTICLE 34. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tree Warden to hire himself at the nominal rate of \$10.00 per hour for necessary tree work in the Town of Merrimac; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed

ARTICLE 35. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Sewer Capital Development Fund, a sum of money in the amount of \$15,000.00 to purchase a pick-up truck for the Sewer Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$15,000.00

ARTICLE 36. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$80,000.00 for complete engineering plans to extend the municipal sewer in West Parish development to include all of Red Oak Acres, a portion of Harriman Road from the old Railroad Overpass to Highland Road and Highland Road from Harriman Road to the West Parish development on Church Street to include the property of Kenneth Fowle on Church Street; or take any other action relative thereto.

Amended and Passed as follows:

The Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 for complete engineering plans for the construction of sewers for Red Oak Acres neighborhood and; to fund this appropriation, authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen to borrow up to \$50,000.00 and; to issue bonds and notes therefore under G.L.Ch. 44 sec 7 (22) and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws and; to vote that the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow all or a portion of said amount from the Water Pollution Abatement Trust established pursuant to said Chapter 29C and; to vote that debt service on these notes shall be paid fully by the homeowners in the Red Oak Acres neighborhood pursuant to betterments to be assessed by the Sewer Commission.

ARTICLE 37. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Sewer Capital Development Fund a sum of money in the amount of \$20,000.00 to modify the design deficiencies and reinstall the passive solar dome at the Sewer Treatment Plant; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$20,000.00

ARTICLE 38. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer to borrow a sum of money in the amount of \$80,000.00 for engineering and constructing sewer works on Ridgefield Road and Pinehurst Road for which the residents have signed a petition to provide full repayment plus interest for all associated work according to Sewer Use Ordinance Article VI, Section 2, Paragraph 2 and Article VI 1, Section 3; or take any other action relative thereto.

Tabled

ARTICLE 39. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$700,000.00 for the purpose of financing construction of the following water pollution abatement facilities; surface drains, sewers, sewerage systems and pump stations etc. including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section I of Chapter 29C of the General Laws in accordance with Phase I plans and specifications drawn by Weston and Sampson, Engineers for River Road previously authorized to be drawn by the Town at the 1996 Annual Town Meeting and; to fund this appropriation, to authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to borrow \$700,000.00 and issue bonds or notes therefore under G.L. Laws Ch.44 sec. 8 (15) and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws and; to vote that the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen is authorized to borrow all or a portion of said amount from the Water Pollution Abatement Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the project or the financing thereof and; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, and to expend all funds available for the project and to take any other action necessary to carry out the project; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Tabled

ARTICLE 40. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 for the purpose of financing construction of the following water pollution abatement facilities: surface drains, sewers, sewerage systems and pump stations etc. including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section I of chapter 29C of the General Laws on River Road from the intersection of River Road and High Street to a point located in front of single family dwelling located at 70 River Road and; to fund this appropriation, to authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to borrow up to \$200,000.00 and issue bonds or notes therefore under G.L. Laws Ch. 44 sec 8 (15) and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws and; to vote that the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen is authorized to borrow all or a

portion of said amount from the Water Pollution Abatement Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the project or the financing thereof and; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, and to expend all funds available for the project and to take any other action necessary to carry out the project; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Passed

ARTICLE 41. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$750.00 for work on the library roof; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed

ARTICLE 42. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$9,000.00 for construction of a front ramp for the library to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Passed

ARTICLE 43. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$27,000.00 to purchase a Police Cruiser for the Police Department; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Passed

ARTICLE 44. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$1,840.00 for the repair and preservation of Town Records for the Town Clerk; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed

ARTICLE 45. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$15,000.00 to install a handicapped accessible, unisex bathroom on the second floor of the Senior Center; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$15,000.00

ARTICLE 46. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$12,000.00 for a heating system to be installed on the second floor of the Senior Center; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$12,000.00

ARTICLE 47. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$15,000.00 for complete architectural drawings of the Senior Center; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$15,000.00

ARTICLE 48. To see if the Town will vote to establish an Open Space Preservation Account. All funds received by the Town from roll-back taxes paid on land removed from Chapter 61A or 61 B; from the sale of Town owned land; ten percent from the lease of Town owned property and revenues of the grant of right -of way or easement shall be placed into the Open Space Preservation Account. Expenditure from this account can only be made by a vote of Town meeting for the conservation of open space or purposes related to the most current Open Space and Recreation Plan. This wording should not be construed to prohibit donations or other sources to the account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed

ARTICLE 49. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning laws of the Town of Merrimac in the following manner; To change the Table of Uses, of the Zoning By-Laws of the Town of Merrimac by inserting under those uses permitted in the LI (Light Industrial) Zone column, the permitted use of single family residence by inserting "SP" therein; or take any other action relative thereto.

Tabled

ARTICLE 50. To see if the Town will vote to amend its Zoning By-Laws and Map to rezone the following portion of property and remove it from the "Light Industrial Zone" and place it in the "Commercial Zone"; or take any other action relative thereto.

Defeated

ARTICLE 51. To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 1, Section V of the Town Bylaws by removing the words "Cushing's Manual" on line 3 and replacing it with "Robert's Rules"; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed

ARTICLE 52. To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 111, Section I of the Town By-Laws to read. 'The Moderator shall in accordance with Mass. General Laws (Ter.Ed.), Chapter 39, Section 16, at the annual Town Meeting appoint a Finance Committee to consist of nine (9) citizens of the Town. The term for each member shall be one (1) year and the maximum number of terms a member may serve shall be three (3)."; or take any other action relative thereto.

Defeated

ARTICLE 53. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$6,000.00 to repair stone wall along Church Street Cemetery; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$6,000.00

ARTICLE 54. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$13,400 to repair roads within Locust Grove Cemetery; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$13,400.00

ARTICLE 55. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$20,000.00 to construct new roads within Locust Grove Cemetery; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$20,000.00

ARTICLE 56. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a contract(s) to commence on or after January 1, 1998 for weekly curbside collection of solid waste and bi-weekly collection of recyclable materials. The annual contractual amount for both solid waste disposal and recycling services are not to exceed an annualized amount of \$350,000 for the first year and to increase not more than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for each of the remaining years. At least 50 percent of the cost of solid waste disposal will be offset by a "pay as you throw" user fee on solid waste disposal and To

see if the Town will accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44 Section 53E and establish an offset fund for the purpose of partially funding curbside pickup of solid waste in the Town and; to establish a fee per bag for the disposal of non-recyclable solid waste by Merrimac residents and to appropriate a sum of money out of said offset fund and raise and appropriate an additional sum of money to implement the curbside pickup of solid waste in the Town and; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to establish rules and regulations relative to the payment and collection of said fee; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$302,000.00

ARTICLE 57. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a ten year contract to commence on or after January 1, 1998 for the disposal and hauling of solid waste and the handling of recyclable materials at a transfer station located within Merrimac for a contractual amount not to exceed an annualized amount of \$100,000. The contract will include "pay as you throw" user fees for solid waste disposal to be collected by the contractor. (The total cost to town residents is estimated at \$370,000 per year.) or take any other action relative thereto.

Tabled

ARTICLE 58. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$6000.00 for the Recycling Committee to collect and dispose of Household Hazardous Waste; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$6,000.00

ARTICLE 59. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$6000.00 to repair and refurbish the playing fields located on Town Forest Road; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$6,000.00

ARTICLE 60. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$4,000.00 to qualify four (4) EMT's to advance to EMT-1 status; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$4,000.00

ARTICLE 61. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$9,000.00 to remove and install a 2000 gallon heating oil tank at the Fire Station, the removal being paid by a grant if accepted; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$9,000.00

ARTICLE 62. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town By-Law Article XV, by adding the following sections:

"Section XIV", All new construction and all remodeling costing 50% or more of the existing building market value will require smoke detectors in each bedroom under the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 148, Section 26B & 26C.

"Section XV", All new construction and all remodeling costing 50% or more of the existing building market value will require heat detectors with a heat rating of at least 195 degree in each room where a fireplace or wood stove is placed under the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 148, Section 26B & 26C.

"Section XVI", All new construction and all remodeling costing 50% of the existing building market value or more will require smoke and heat detectors to have a battery back up system, under the provisions of M.G.L.Ch. 148, Section 26B & 26C; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed

ARTICLE 63. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$244,000.00 for the purchase of a new pumper fire truck and to fund this appropriation to raise and appropriate or transfer the sum of \$50,000.00 and to fund the balance of this appropriation, to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a 4 year lease/purchase agreement for an amount not to exceed \$196,000.00; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Passed

ARTICLE 64. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of money to the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$175,000.00

Actions Taken at Special Town Meeting
Held at Frederick N. Sweetsir School on June 2, 1997

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money and authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend said appropriation to purchase a parcel of land with the buildings thereon located at 68B West Main Street (aka Hog Penny site) and shown on Assessors Map 48 as Block 1, Parcel 7, containing 6.470 acres for library purposes and; to fund this appropriation to authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to borrow the sum appropriated in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7 (3); or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$150,000.00

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to borrow \$75,000.00 in State House notes for a period not to exceed five years, to be used for Plant up-grade study, sludge testing, televising sewer lines and manhole rehabilitation; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$45,000.00

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town By-law by adding a new section to Article V of said by-law as follows:

Section XI: No one may place or maintain any unattended sign, poster, or display on any town land, road, easement, structure, tree, utility pole, or property, or in any town building without the prior approval of the Board of Selectmen. Any sign, poster, or display so placed or maintained without such approval shall be removed immediately and without notice by those town employees or officials whom the Board of Selectmen shall designate. Items removed may be disposed of as appropriate if unclaimed by the owner within 72 hours of removal. This bylaw shall not prohibit the placing or maintaining of any sign, poster, or display in any town building by town employees or officials, if placed or maintained on notice boards or counters designated for officially placed or maintained signs, posters or displays; or take any other action relative thereto.

Tabled

Actions Taken at Special Town Meeting
Held at Frederick N. Sweetsir School on October 21, 1997

ARTICLE 1 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$55,000.00, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend said appropriation to purchase, for conservation purposes, an approximately 21.7 acre parcel of land and to accept a gift, for conservation purposes, of an approximately 46 acre parcel of land, both located off Highland road and shown on Assessor's Map 73, Block 1 as Parcels 1 and 3, and on Assessor's Map 74, Block 1, Parcel 1, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Passed \$55,000.00

ARTICLE 2 To see if the Town will vote to accept a state grant from the Department of Environmental Management, in the amount of \$20,000.00, for the development of recreational trails in the Town of Merrimac, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend said funds in connection with the purchase of approximately 21.7 acres of property located on Highland Road or to take any other action relative thereto.

Passed

ARTICLE 3 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 pursuant to the provisions of G.L. Ch. 111, Section 127B1/2 for the purpose of providing loans to qualifying homeowners for the repair or replacement of septic systems and; to fund this appropriation, to authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to borrow up to \$200,000.00 and issue bonds or notes therefore under G.L. Laws Ch. 44 and Chapter 29C of the General Laws and; to vote that the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen is authorized to borrow all of said amount from the Water Pollution Abatement Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the project or the financing thereof and; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, and to expend all funds available for the project and to take any other action necessary to carry out the project and; to direct the Board of Health to assess upon the landowners the total cost of construction of said septic systems in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111, Section 127B1/2 and Chapter 83; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Passed

ARTICLE 4 To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and expend Chapter 90 Highway Grant Funds in the amount of \$272,742.00 for the improvement of streets and roads within the Town of Merrimac and to acquire highway equipment in accordance with the Chapter 90 Highway Grant Program; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Passed

ARTICLE 5 To see if the Town will authorize the Sewer Commissioners to take by Eminent Domain, for sewer purposes, in accordance with the provisions of G.L. Ch. 83, Section 1 and G.L. Ch. 40, Section 14, 1,800 square feet of land located along River Road and; to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$1,800.00 from the Sewer Development Fund to be paid in damages to the landowner for said taking ; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed

ARTICLE 6 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$5,000.00 to pay for inspections for the Sewer Department; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Passed

ARTICLE 7 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay for the Town to join the Merrimac Valley Regional Transportation Authority; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed

ARTICLE 8 To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$5,000.00 from Special Article 36 voted at the May 5, 1997 Annual Town Meeting to conduct a construction cost survey for sewers to be installed in the Red Oak Acre subdivision; or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed

ARTICLE 9 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer the sum of \$5,000.00 to be expended by the Library Trustees to conduct a land study including a topological survey of the recently acquired site of the new library; or take any other action relative thereto.

Tabled

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